



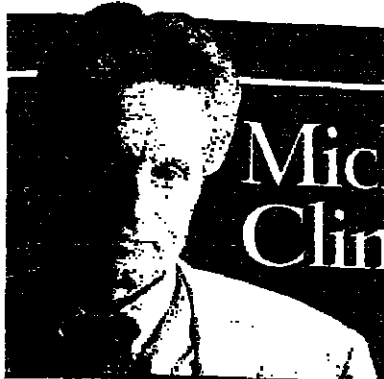
THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,725

THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 1998

(1R50p) 45p

IN THE REVIEW



Michael Douglas: Clinton and me

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Why Russia is in Vogue

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EDUCATION

Nursery rage: the toddlers from hell

16-PAGE SUPPLEMENT, WITH JOBS



Heath: 'I executed Polish soldier for wartime rape'



Sir Edward: 'I felt uneasy'

SIR EDWARD Heath commanded a firing squad that executed a Polish soldier for rape during the Second World War, according to a documentary that offers rare insights into an intensely private politician.

The episode, which had a profound effect on Sir Edward, took place when he was a major in the Royal Artillery in Germany at the end of the war. It is related for the first time in *A Very Singular Man*, a television

BY KATHY MARKS

portrait by Michael Cockerell. The former prime minister says in the film: "The Polish man was taken outside by the guards and tied up and blindfolded, and then the firing squad marched out and I gave the orders for them to fire."

"I obviously felt uneasy. It's one thing to be in the war, and you see the enemy on the other side and so you bombard them,

and then later on when you pass over their ground, you see dead bodies lying around.

"That's one thing. That's war. But it's different when you have an individual. I didn't sleep particularly well that night."

The documentary, to be broadcast on BBC2 on Sunday evening, also reveals that senior Conservatives tried to marry off Sir Edward when he was prime minister because they felt that his bachelor status made him

appear remote and out of touch.

The bride whom they had in mind was Dame Moura Lympany, a concert pianist who regularly visited Downing Street and Chequers while he was in office from 1970-74. He was an accomplished pianist and conductor, and the two played in concerts together.

Dame Moura, now 82, like Sir Edward, tells Mr Cockerell that she received a visit from the late Sir Tufton Beamish, a member

of the executive of the 1922 Committee. "Tufton came to see me at my house and said, 'Ted must get married, will you marry him?'" she says. "Well, I would have regarded it as a great honour if Ted had asked me to marry him."

Asked whether she would have accepted, she says: "Ah, if I hadn't been in love with somebody else."

Sir Edward, who has never married, tells Mr Cockerell: "I

liked Moura and apparently she liked me. We had an interest in food and wine and in discussing musical performances."

When he is shown footage of Dame Moura describing Sir Tufton's visit, Sir Edward's eyes light up. He says: "Tufton never discussed it with me, but nothing surprises me anymore."

Gallantly, he declines to say whether he would have married her.

Sir Edward, who is still an

MP, joined the Royal Artillery as a gunner at the beginning of the war, and ended his military career as a colonel in Germany in 1946.

A friend, Lord Healey, a former Labour Chancellor, says he was "enormously changed" by his experiences as a gunner.

"He had a toughness which had not been actually visible - I don't say he didn't have it - before the war but it was very visible after the war," he says.

Police seize Arab terror suspects

SEVEN MEN suspected of being linked to Islamic terrorism were arrested yesterday in London.

The men, believed to have links with Osama bin Laden, the alleged terrorist said to have ordered last month's US embassy bombings in East Africa, were picked up in a series of early morning raids after a lengthy surveillance operation by MI5 and Scotland Yard's Anti Terrorist Branch.

The men are suspected of involvement in terrorism, although it was unclear last night whether this was in Britain or abroad. They are believed to have links with Mr bin Laden, a Saudi Arabian dissident currently believed to be in Afghanistan is wanted by America in connection with the attacks on its embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in which more than 250 people were killed.

Security services fear fundamentalists were planning to hit a number of American targets after the United States cruise missile attack on a pharmaceutical factory in Sudan in revenge for the embassy bombings.

Security has already been tightened at the US Embassy in London and other high-profile locations such as the Planet Hollywood restaurant, whose Cape Town branch was bombed last month.

All the men arrested yesterday at seven addresses in north-west and west London were being interviewed last night by the police. An eighth address, believed to be business premises, was being searched.

Armed officers were not used during the arrests, known as Operation Challenge, and Scotland Yard stressed last night that there had been no threat of an imminent attack.

Scotland Yard has kept the FBI in the United States in-

formed about the operation.

The arrests, under section 14 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 1989, are not believed to have been linked to any unsolved terrorist incident.

Nor were the raids connected with the recent changes in anti-terrorism laws giving police the right to act against suspected terrorists plotting attacks in other countries.

Bakri Muhammad, a spokesman for the International Islamic Front, which supports Mr bin Laden's aims, claimed the seven men arrested were all political refugees who had fled the Egyptian government after campaigning against it.

Mr Muhammad said the men were "well-known political refugees". And he added: "They publish leaflets and send faxes - they have nothing to do with terrorism or Bin Laden."

He said they had been in Britain for more than four years and belonged to a number of Egyptian Islamic movements. These men are well known by the Special Branch. They are here as political refugees.

He said Special Branch officers raided the men's homes in the morning and that they had all gone with them peacefully. Their families have since moved to friends living near by.

He added that one man in his 30s was a solicitor in Egypt and head of the "Organisation for Defending the Human Rights of Egypt".

It is believed that at least one of those detained is from Saudi Arabia.

The FBI believes that Mr bin Laden's organisation, Al Qaeda, is committed to murdering American military personnel stationed in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Somalia and elsewhere, and killing American civilians

worldwide.

Two men, one a Yemeni, Muhammad al-Owhali, and the other a Kenyan citizen, Muhammad Howaida, have already been flown to the US to stand trial for the Nairobi embassy bombing.

The FBI is seeking a third man Haroun Fazl, from the Comoros Islands, in connection with the bombings, and it has put a reward of up to \$2m (£1.3m) on his head.

Terrorism experts believe that Mr bin Laden, a multi-millionaire, used his wealth to fund the bombings in Nairobi, and Dar es Salaam on 7 August.

The attacks prompted American retaliation in the shape of air strikes in Afghanistan and Sudan.

The information gathered by MI5 and police surveillance was passed to Scotland Yard's Anti-Terrorist Branch, commanded by Deputy Assistant Commissioner Alan Fry, which made yesterday's arrests. MI5 has been stung by criticism that London is a hotbed of international terrorism.

Senior Yard sources admit London, like other capital cities, is a "target-rich" environment for fundamentalist groups who are intent on pursuing a holy war against America or Britain.

However, they say they are more concerned about a maverick group committing a "one-off" random attack on a target such as Planet Hollywood, which is impossible to predict or plan for.

The last major Middle-East inspired attack in London was in 1994 when two Palestinians planted a car bomb outside the Israeli Embassy, causing £5m damage and injuring 13 people.

Scotland Yard says it has been successful in helping the French, particularly with Algerian terrorists plotting acts in France from London.



A soldier from the Southern Africa intervention force watching looters pillage a shop in the Lesotho capital, Maseru Report page 14 AP

Ashdown warns Blair 'not to betray voters'

PADDY ASHDOWN will today warn Tony Blair that he risks betraying the voters and "damaging" the Government's working relationship with the Liberal Democrats.

In his strongest attack so far on Mr Blair, the Liberal Democrat leader will tell the Prime Minister that their joint project for constitutional reform is threatened by the expected decision to delay and water down the controversial Freedom of Information Bill.

Mr Ashdown will also use his keynote speech at his party conference in Brighton to defuse growing frustration at his policy of "constructive opposition". Many party supporters believe this has forced the leadership

electoral reform and they should not "blow it" now by seeking to break off relations with the Government. Clearly damping down expectations over the Jenkins commission, he will urge them to be realistic about co-operation with the Government.

Sources close to Mr Ashdown said: "He will tell them that there are opportunities to be grasped - you have to be up to it." But he will make it clear to Mr Blair that the relationship could reach breaking point if he seeks to water down the commitment to Freedom of Information, as contained in the Labour manifesto, and fails to deliver on a PR referendum in this Parliament.

Opposition to PR, page 2

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Nunn takes National Theatre into rep

THE NATIONAL Theatre will shortly announce that it is forming a repertory company of actors. The company, which will perform in four plays together, will start productions next spring and might eventually take up a residency outside London.

The initiative by the Nation-

al's artistic director, Trevor Nunn, will mark a return to old style "rep" in which actors build up a company ethos and familiarity with their audience as well as achieving a recognisable style of performing.

The move, planned for some time by Mr Nunn, will go some way to answering the anxieties expressed by Sir Ian McKellen who told *The Independent* yesterday that the lack of repertory companies meant actors could not hone their skills properly, and that when he played at the National he had no clear

idea of the sort of people that were in the audience. Sir Ian is spending the next six months acting in repertory in Leeds.

A close associate of Trevor Nunn said: "Trevor is moving towards this and there will be an announcement soon. He feels you can explore Shakespeare, for example, in much

more depth with a company that has established a certain style."

A spokeswoman for the National Theatre said its audience was predominantly middle-class, middle-aged and white. An actors audience? page 3

Leading article, Review, page 3



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South Africa's military intervention in the tiny kingdom of Lesotho has proved extremely costly
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BUSINESS
The DTI has blocked Ladbroke's £363m purchase of the Coral betting chain
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SPORT
The golfer Nick Faldo and his coaching guru, David Leadbetter, have split after 13 years
PAGE 25



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Minister backs pet passports

The Government's radical overhaul of the quarantine laws includes plans for 'pet passports' and a new licensing scheme for Britain's 14 million cats and dogs. Page 4

Tate archives 'altered for fraud'

An alleged art fraudster was accused in court of altering Tate Gallery archives to create histories for fake works by famous modern artists, which flooded the market. Page 5

Ashdown defeated on schools

Party activists at the Liberal Democrat conference overwhelmingly turned down key proposals to shift power over schools from local councillors to parents. Page 10

FOREIGN NEWS

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Iran's hardliners losing grip

The easing of the death threat against Salman Rushdie is a sign of President Mohammad Khatami's power to control Iran's conservative clerics. Page 12

Nato plans force against Serbs

Nato took its first steps towards assembling a multinational force to carry out air strikes to halt Slobodan Milosevic's offensive against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. Page 12

BUSINESS NEWS

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Go-ahead for power takeover

PowerGen is to agree to the sale of double the generating capacity it first offered in return for approval of its £1.9bn takeover of East Midlands Electricity. Page 18

SPORTS NEWS

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Hick on stand-by for Ashes tour

Graeme Hick, who was left out of the England party for the Ashes tour of Australia, has been put on stand-by with Andrew Caddick and Phil Tufnell. Page 25

McMahon resigns from Swindon

Former Liverpool and England midfielder Steve McMahon resigned as manager of £5m-in-debt Swindon Town after failing to win the confidence of supporters. Page 30

THURSDAY REVIEW

20-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown

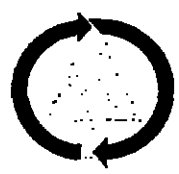
'More than one-third of fathers and mothers confessed to administering "severe" physical punishment, including beatings, burnings and cold baths.' Page 4

Andreas Whittam Smith

'MIS has an instinctive reluctance to put anything at all into the public domain. Thus, the only files which are available at the Public Record Office cover the period from its foundation in 1909 to 1919.' Page 5

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Cryptic crossword, section one, page 30



Recycled paper made up 46.03 per cent of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997

PR opposed by Labour grass roots

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

STRONG EVIDENCE of grass-roots Labour opposition to proportional representation emerged last night in a survey of 150 constituency party chairmen.

In a warning shot across Tony Blair's bows as he prepares to decide whether to change the voting system for general elections, the poll suggested he will have serious problems persuading his party to support electoral reform. The survey was organised by the AEEU engineering union, which will lead the fight against changing the first-past-the-post system at next week's Labour conference.

BPRI, an independent research agency that questioned the local party chairmen, found that a majority (62 per cent) believed PR leads to weak coalition government. Almost three-quarters thought PR would give disproportionate power and influence to smaller parties such as the Liberal Democrats.

A majority (56 per cent) regarded as "flawed" the proposal expected to be recommended



Jenkins: Reform 'flawed'

next month by the commission on electoral reform chaired by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, the Liberal Democrat peer. Under the plan, about 500 MPs would be elected under the alternative vote system, allowing people to list candidates in their order of preference, "topped up" by another 100 chosen to reflect each party's share of the vote in each region.

A huge majority (86 per cent) of those polled believed the introduction of a regional list system of candidates would give more power to Labour headquarters and take it away from ordinary members. More than half (56 per cent) thought regional lists would make it less

likely that working class people were elected to Parliament.

Ken Jackson, the AEEU's general secretary, said: "No more proof is needed - the Labour Party will not want to take a leap into the dark and abandon first-past-the-post. Unions and constituencies are united in rejecting change for change's sake."

An AEEU source said the poll findings "put the skids" under Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown's attempt to win a seat in Mr Blair's Cabinet and form a coalition with Labour.

The union's survey was dismissed by the Make Votes Count campaign, which supports change. It said the poll was flawed because the questions were loaded, and that some chairmen had not had time to consult members.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, adds his voice to those cabinet ministers who oppose PR in today's *New Statesman* magazine. He says: "Most people know that one of the features of Parliamentary democracy is the link between the member and the constituency. I value that, which is one of the reasons why I remain to be convinced."



Trevor Rees-Jones: law suit marks final breakdown of relations with former employer

Rees-Jones sues the Ritz

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
In Paris

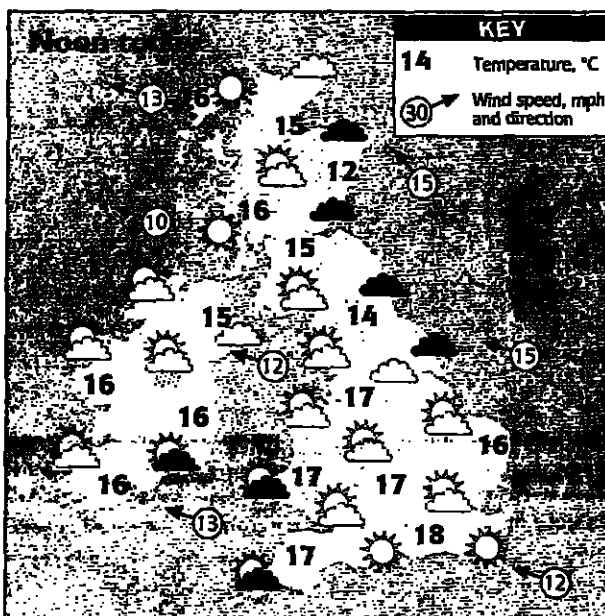
TREVOR REES-JONES, the bodyguard who survived the crash which killed Diana, Princess of Wales, yesterday brought a legal action against the Ritz Hotel for its role in events leading to the accident.

The move could lead to criminal charges against senior managers of the Paris hotel, which is owned by Mr Rees-Jones' former employer, Mohammed al-Fayed. Although technically a complaint against

staff in May, is already suing the Harrods owner in Britain. He alleges that he has reneged on a written commitment to pay all his legal bills arising from the accident in August last year. If the British suit is successful, Mr Rees-Jones's action against the Ritz, his own company.

The legal action marks the final breakdown of relations between the former bodyguard and Mr Fayed. Mr Rees-Jones, who resigned from Mr Fayed's

BRITAIN TODAY



FORECAST

General situation: South-west England and Wales will have sunny spells, but there is a threat of showers. Northern Ireland will be brighter after grey start, but showers are possible this afternoon. Elsewhere it will be mostly dry with fog and low cloud lifting to leave sunshine in many places, but north of the Humber, eastern counties are likely to stay dull.

London, Kent & SE England, Midlands, E Wales, NW England, Lake Dist. late of rain. Early mist and low cloud lifting to leave warm sunburst, but there is a slim risk of showers in the more western fringes later. A light to moderate easterly breeze. Max temp 19-22C (66-72F).

E Anglia, Kent & E England: Morning mist and low cloud may linger well into the afternoon, but the sun will break through in a few places. A light easterly wind. Max temp 14-17C (57-63F).

Channel Is, SW England, W Wales: Quite warm with sunny spells, but also a risk of scattered heavy showers, perhaps thundery. A moderate south-east breeze. Max temp 15-17C (59-63F).

N Ireland: Slowly brightening up after a grey start, but showers may reach southern counties later. A light easterly wind. Max temp 16-19C (61-66F).

Glasgow, SW & NW Scotland, W Isles: Becoming mostly sunny after early fog and low cloud disperse, but parts of the Central Lowlands may stay rather cloudy. A light east wind. Max temp 17-20C (63-68F).

SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, N Isles: Mist and low cloud lingering near the coast, but it will be much brighter and warmer to the west of high ground. A light south-east wind. Max temp 15-18C (59-64F), but only 13C (55F) where it stays dull.

OUTLOOK

Showers in the south-west tomorrow will become more organised and heavy after dark and spread to all but northern Scotland on Saturday. It will remain fairly warm away from North Sea coasts.

TRAVEL

Roads: West Midlands: M5 between J5 (B178) and J2 (Dudley). Resurfacing work - narrow lanes. Until 12th October. West Yorkshire: M1 between J10 (Sheffield) and J42 (Leeds/Doncaster) (M62). Roadworks with 50mph speed limit. Until 1st November. Birmingham: M40 between junctions 1a (M25) & 3 (Wycombe East). Three narrow lanes both ways and a 50 mph speed limit in force. Until 1st January 1999. Berkshire: M4 between J9 (Maidenhead) and J7 (Slough). New road layout with a

LIGHTING UP

	7.18pm	to	7.14am
Belfast	7.02pm	to	6.58am
Birmingham	7.05pm	to	7.01am
Cardiff	7.11pm	to	7.08am
London	6.55pm	to	6.51am
Manchester	7.03pm	to	6.59am
Newcastle	7.01pm	to	6.57am

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	10.57	11.7	11.09	11.4
Cardiff	9.24	9.45	8.45	8.1
Doverport	9.33	9.1	8.47	8.0
Dunfermline	2.52	6.2	2.45	6.2
Edinburgh	3.23	3.8	3.41	3.7
London	9.04	8.9	8.18	8.5
Manchester	4.11	3.3	4.41	3.2
Newcastle	3.31	3.8	3.45	3.8
Sheffield	1.56	5.1	2.17	5.0
Southport	10.10	10.0	10.28	10.0
Swansea	8.38	8.0	6.57	8.5
Torquay	2.48	8.6	3.06	8.5
Wexford	9.59	6.2	10.13	6.1
Wolverhampton	8.52	6.2	9.07	6.1
Worcester	10.22	1.7	10.35	1.6
Wrexham	2.54	4.3	3.43	4.3
Yarmouth	11.51	4.3	12.06	4.2
York	10.22	1.7	10.35	1.6
Widnes	3.02	3.2	3.19	3.1

AIR QUALITY

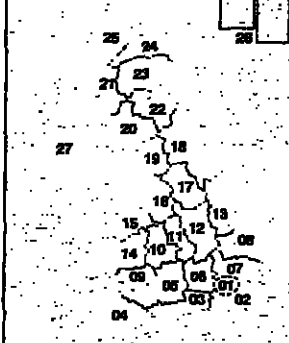
	NO ₂	O ₃
London	Mod	Good
S. England	Mod	Good
Wales	Mod	Good
C. England	Mod	Good
N. England	Mod	Good
Scotland	Mod	Good
N. Ireland	Mod	Good

SUN & MOON

Sun rises: 06.49
Sun sets: 18.55
Moon rises: 10.25
Moon sets: 20.47
First quarter: 28 Sept

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts call 0800 5000 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).



YESTERDAY

	Wettest	Wettest	Wettest
Wettest	Crawley 23C (73F)	Coldest (day): Batsford 13C (55F)	Wettest: Machynlleth 0.02 ins
Wettest	Wettest: Machynlleth 0.02 ins	Wettest: Batsford 13C (55F)	Wettest: Batsford 13C (55F)
Wettest	Wettest: Batsford 13C (55F)	Wettest: Batsford 13C (55F)	Wettest: Batsford 13C (55F)

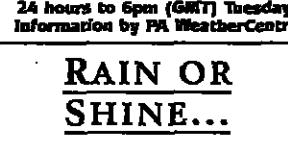
EXTREMES

	Wettest	Wettest	Wettest
Wettest	Crawley 23C (73F)	Coldest (day): Batsford 13C (55F)	Wettest: Machynlleth 0.02 ins
Wettest	Wettest: Machynlleth 0.02 ins	Wettest: Batsford 13C (55F)	Wettest: Batsford 13C (55F)
Wettest	Wettest: Batsford 13C (55F)	Wettest: Batsford 13C (55F)	Wettest: Batsford 13C (55F)

THE WORLD

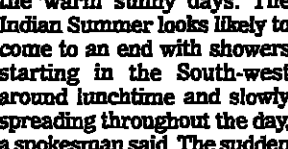
EUROPE NOON TODAY

Key: 10-10C, 11-20C, 21-30C, 31-40C



THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY

Key: 10-10C, 11-20C, 21-30C, 31-40C



THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Key: 10-10C, 11-20C, 21-30C, 31-40C



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Has London theatre reached the stage where it can't find a decent audience?

'London Theatre is impersonal. Its audiences are full of tourists; its actors do not have a communal spirit'

By DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

WHEN SIR Ian McKellen fired his broadside at theatre in the capital in an interview in *The Independent* yesterday, he did so in spirited style. He questioned whether some people in the audience at the National Theatre could even speak the language and wondered why there were no black faces in the audience. And he said he was moving for six months to Leeds to find fulfilment in the repertory company of the West Yorkshire Playhouse.

Sir Ian is not the first of Britain's great classical actors to be caustic about London audiences. Six years ago Sir Alec Guinness turned his back on the West End, remarking: "I'd rather go to the provinces where they still speak English and not Japanese."

Sir Ian McKellen chooses more lyrical language. He does not, he says, want to "betray the soul of acting" by performing any more in large theatres with no idea of what sort of people are in the audience. In the regions, he says, local people look on the theatre as theirs and build up a relationship with the actors, just as the actors in an old-fashioned rep company where they appear in several plays and build up a relationship with each other.

In Leeds, the West Yorkshire Playhouse artistic director, Jude Kelly, is making radical attempts to bring theatre to new audiences. There has already been a cyber café, and there will soon be video screens in the foyer to accompany an adaptation of the best-selling book *Deadbeat* by the multimedia artist Q.

Jude Kelly said: "To secure the future of theatre we need to find ways to encourage new, young audiences. To do this it is essential that we explore mediums that excite and enthrall younger generations and celebrate subjects and ideas that appeal to them."

And London's best-known

impresario Sir Cameron Mackintosh has chosen to premiere his second re-working of the musical *Martin Guerre* in Leeds, saying: "The West Yorkshire Playhouse is without doubt one of the most exciting and adventurous regional theatres in the country and I am proud to be a part of it."

Yesterday a bewildered theatreland in London was fighting back. The Society of London Theatre pointed to a new report, prepared at the London School of Economics, which shows West End theatre as a billion-pound business. In the first study to give a complete picture of the popularity and economic impact of theatre in the capital, it shows that 11.5 million seats were sold in the West End last year with a ticket revenue of £246m.

The report, written by Tony Travers, director of the Greater London Group at the LSE, also states that 41,000 jobs depend on West End theatre, theatregoers in London spent £435m on restaurants, hotels, transport and merchandise last year and London theatre's total economic impact in 1997 was £1,075m.

Nica Burns, production director of Stoll Moss Theatres, said last night: "Please come back Ian McKellen. The West End would love to have you back and you would find that we have a flush of contemporary writing with such shows as *Popcorn* and *Closer*. It's a terrible misconception that most audiences are made up of tourists."

The West End producer Thelma Holt, who is also the Cameron Mackintosh professor of contemporary theatre at Oxford University, said: "I think British audiences are the best in the world. Last week three and a half hours of *Hamlet* in Japanese received rapturous applause at the Barbican. Of course there are a lot of foreigners in our audiences but I think that's an advantage. It's nice to have a cosmopolitan audience."

Leading article,
Review, page 3



West End theatres generate much revenue for the capital's economy and provide 41,000 jobs Emma Boam

IS IAN MCKELLEN RIGHT? THE VIEW FROM THE STALLS

The Independent went to a performance of *Closer* at the Lyric Theatre, in Shaftesbury Avenue, London, to ask theatregoers whether West End audiences actually appreciate what they're seeing on the stage.

Craig Kennedy, 42, attorney, from San Francisco

"I know absolutely nothing about this play. We bought tickets for it at a half-price ticket booth after flying in this morning. What this actor says is fine by me."



Sue Hall, 43, housewife, from Putney, London

"I haven't been to the theatre for quite a long time - I just haven't arranged it for a while. I think it's probably right that there are a lot of tourists because they have the time to go."

Robert Southgate, 64, retired, from Warwickshire

"I come to the theatre a lot. If he [Sir Ian McKellen] said he would rather play in the provinces I'm delighted about it because I'm on the board of the Birmingham Rep."



Anne Tiesl, 51, travel agent from Tunbridge Wells, Kent

"I don't understand McKellen's remarks. An audience is an audience wherever they come from. It would be like me saying I won't have anyone booking a holiday who isn't English."

John Stone, 53, stockbroker, from Dagenham, Essex

"I come to the theatre very much... probably once a fortnight. I've got a lot of respect for Ian McKellen but I think London is the place for theatre and culture."



Victoria Burke, 53, self-employed, from Tunbridge Wells, Kent

"We've done all the big ones - *Miss Saigon*, *Cats*, *Les Mis*... It's very sad that Ian McKellen has taken that attitude. It's quite arrogant to say foreigners don't appreciate the theatre."

William Robertson, 34, yoga instructor from New Zealand

"I don't go to the theatre regularly. I see movies more often. I found out about this from *Time Out*. I think a large proportion of people seeing plays in London aren't from England."



The Rev Geraldine James, 65, minister from Maryland, USA

"I love the theatre, but I don't go much in the States - so this is a treat for me. To me [Sir Ian McKellen's] reading into the mind of his audience something that might not be true."



No hype, no glamour, but an ovation for Leicester

By SHELDON MILLER

IT IS more than 100 miles off the West End tourist trail but Haymarket Theatre, Leicester, proves a big enough draw to attract a crowd of 300 on a Wednesday afternoon.

There is little in the way of hype or glamour. No one is offering tickets on the streets and no one is taking pictures outside the building for the folks back home. There is not a Japanese or an American in sight.

Here is a midweek mix of the elderly and students, with the odd suited professional, whose presence is conspicuous by the way they choose to sit alone, surrounded by empty seats. Time, space and relaxation is obviously what they want.

They are watching *The Ring*, a musical starring Linzi Hateley, better known for her recent performances in the world tour of *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. This play has been adapted from Terrence McNally's book, about a ring which a mother wants demolished for the memories it holds, but her daughter cherishes all it stands for.

Staff at the Haymarket are pleased with this afternoon's turnout. A crowd of 300 is a healthy midweek number in a theatre capacity of 750. Last year's audience figures, from March 1997 to March 1998, ran at 72 per cent of capacity; annual



The Haymarket Theatre, Leicester: 'Shows in London are far more profit-based' Doug Marke/Page One

turnover reached £1.5m. The Haymarket has never swelled with the same kind of audience figures as London's prestigious theatres. But people are not here for the riches. It is the buzz that they are after. And it is the buzz they want to create.

Paul Kerryson, 40, is the artistic director. He has worked at the theatre for three years and before that in Chichester, Birmingham and Manchester. He has taken shows to London, and some were a success. So why is he not there now?

"London finds it more difficult to experiment... it's all geared to money. We too have to manage a budget, but we do

things because we want to do them and we like to experiment. There's room to do that here."

"We had Eddie Izzard up here recently doing a performance of *Edward the Second* and it was fantastic. You would struggle to find that in London. Besides, it was more relevant to hold a performance here because it was here in Leicester where Edward the Second came to such a sticky end."

At the interval the crowd spills out into the foyer, left relatively untouched since the early Haymarket days of the Seventies. The carpet is a lurid mix of purple and pink zig-zags, but staff are working on a

lottery grant to change that.

Three sisters, Eileen Nuttall, Betty Potter and Sheila Roberts, are discussing the first hour of performance. Mrs Roberts, 62, of East Goswote, is a regular theatre goer. "I love musicals and this is right up my street," she said. "I've paid just 25 for a seat. What more do you want to know?"

Gwen Rowlings, 31, is a teacher from Peterborough, who has come here with a party of students studying GNVQ performing arts. "The students are enjoying this just as much as any London show they have seen," she said.

Sally Anne Tye, head of marketing and sales at the Haymarket, says there is more experimentation in the regions because, "there is a really strong commitment to audience development and outreach work... In Leicester, 35 per cent of the city's population is Asian, so we reflect that with Asian theatre initiatives, that's just one strand of our work. The Haymarket has got a reputation of presenting a broad balance of performances and taking risk..."

"There's too much West End bias, everyone outside of London knows that. We are happy to get on with our own thing, minus the hype. There hasn't been an explosion in the provinces, theatre development has always been strong and our audiences know that."

FIVE REGIONAL POWERHOUSES

WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE

Under Jude Kelly's dynamic leadership this has become a powerhouse of the north in the Nineties. So intent to involve local community it does not even have a stage door. Alan Rickman made his directorial debut here.

NOTTINGHAM PLAYHOUSE

Sir Richard Eyre was director in the Seventies and forged a challenging partnership with the playwrights David Hare and Howard Brenton. Has strong community links, sometimes selling tickets in night clubs.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH

The third largest theatre organisation in Britain. Its co-production of *West Side Story* is about to open in the West End. Runs the largest youth theatre in Britain and a community theatre, The People's Company.

ROYAL EXCHANGE, MANCHESTER

Reopens this autumn two years after being damaged in the IRA bombing of Manchester. The 'theatre in the round' has attracted stars including Vanessa Redgrave, Robert Lindsay and Albert Finney.

BRISTOL OLD VIC

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Shoppers being conned, says OFT

BRITAIN's largest supermarkets were the subject of fresh criticism yesterday when a report from the Office of Fair Trading accused them of using their near monopoly position to charge shoppers higher prices.

The report comes just weeks after the OFT launched an investigation into the supermarkets to establish whether stores like Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda and Safeway use their huge buying power to drive down the prices they pay to suppliers but then fail to pass on those savings to consumers.

Paul Dobson, one of three academics commissioned by the OFT to produce the report, said yesterday that British shoppers must look at the prices charged in supermarkets overseas and wonder whether they are being "ripped off" at home.

"It appears from our research that there is generally

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

an absence of intense competition on high streets and in supermarkets," he said.

"The result is higher profits for the retailer but higher prices for the customer."

The report expresses concern that the increasing dominance of major supermarkets could lead to an abuse of power.

Research has shown that profit margins enjoyed by UK retailers are three times those of their counterparts in other countries in Europe and in the United States. The report shows that the market share of the largest five food retailers has grown from 28 per cent in 1984 to around 44 per cent. Profit margins have increased by 50 per cent in the same period.

As suppliers, farmers have been up in arms over their

treatment by the supermarkets. One Ipswich pig farmer yesterday said that supermarkets paid him "half the cost of production". He added that it was impossible for UK farmers to produce animals at the same price as continental European rivals because of Britain's food production legislation.

Farmers have been incensed by claims from Tesco that the supermarket group "makes no money on meat". Tesco and the other supermarkets maintain that more stringent food processing in the wake of the BSE scare has made the production of meat more expensive.

The OFT report was criticised by the supermarket operators. Asda said: "Whenever we achieve savings or our suppliers give us a better price, we pass that on to the customers."

Safeway lambasted the report, saying it contained "no

original research". The company said recent research into comparative prices showed British prices were near the bottom, with Italy the cheapest and Belgium the most expensive.

The supermarkets pointed to price campaigns launched in the past few days by Asda and Sainsbury's as evidence of healthy competition. But industry experts say the supermarkets have launched the initiatives because they know the market is being scrutinised.

They also say prices in America are cheaper because it is a bigger market with lower shop rental and transport costs. Analysts add that food prices in countries like Germany are cheaper because supermarkets there do not offer the same quality of service as in Britain.

The OFT is due to report its preliminary findings in December.



Cap and George, a yellow Labrador and fox terrier, in their pens at U.K. Quarantine in Worlington, near Mildenhall, Suffolk; many animals at the holding base are placed there by American servicemen

Brian Harris

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Pets' passports will supercede quarantine rules

A NATIONAL licensing scheme for Britain's 14 million cats and dogs is being drawn up by the government as part of its radical overhaul of quarantine laws.

The pet licence plan emerged yesterday as Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, backed an independent report that recommended a new system of "pet passports" and micro chip implants for animals entering the UK from Europe.

The long awaited Kennedy report, commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture and published yesterday, called for the abolition of the six month quarantine for cats and dogs brought from European Union and other rabies-free countries.

Jan Kennedy, professor of health law at University College, London, said that his panel of scientists had concluded that the sweeping changes to Britain's 100-year-old quarantine laws would not increase the current low risk of a rabid animal entering the UK.

Under the proposals outlined in the Kennedy report, animals travelling to Britain would have to be vaccinated and then have a micro chip implanted in their ear or neck to

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

prove their identity. The chip would be scanned by Customs officers to verify the pet's blood test certificate and owners would be charged up to £200, rather than the £2,500 it currently costs to keep them in quarantine.

The 300-page report predicts that the number of pets entering the country from abroad would soar from 7,300 a year to more than a quarter of a million a year, but insists that the six month detention period would remain for those nations deemed to have a high risk of rabies.

Pets coming from the United States will still have to undergo the six month wait as research shows that the disease is endemic in North America, but rabies-free islands such as Australia, New Zealand, Cyprus, Malta, Hawaii and others would be included in the new scheme.

The Government is in broad agreement with the proposals, but the minister revealed yesterday that it could be 2001 before they are implemented.

Vampires just had bad dose of rabies

COUNT DRACULA wasn't a vampire - he had rabies, according to a Spanish doctor who says ancient European legends about the blood-drinking undead were actually descriptions of people with the illness.

The symptoms of the advanced form of the disease, in which the virus attacks the brain, include an aversion to bright light, water and mirrors, an apparent liking for blood and sex, and biting.

Juan Gomez-Alonso of the Xeral Hospital in Vigo, Spain, says these symptoms match the folklore of rapacious, sexually predatory vampires being unable to go out in the day, having no reflection, and burning if they touch water.

Muscle spasms in the neck can make victims look dog-like, and cause them to vomit blood, while some suffer violent impulses that make them try to bite people, and others get erections that last for days, Dr Gomez-Alonso writes in the journal *Neurology*. "I was shocked by the similarities between vampirism and rabies," he says.

Dr Gomez-Alonso has also found evidence of a major rabies outbreak in Hungary between 1721 and 1728 - the time when the legend of Dracula first gained currency.

"The similarities are too close to be coincidental," Dr Gomez-Alonso writes. In which case, it could be that what the Count needed was not a stake through the heart, but a needle in the arm - before he fell ill - for once the symptoms begin to show, the disease is invariably fatal.

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

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0845 801 800

Galleries 'fooled by conman in elaborate art fraud'

AN EXPERT conman masterminded an art fraud of such complexity that it took some of Britain's leading galleries, collectors and experts, a court was told yesterday.

Sometimes styling himself professor, sometimes doctor, John Drewe allegedly created histories for non-existent works by famous modern artists, then paid a skilled painter £250 a time to create them. The court was told that John Myatt, a struggling artist, copied the styles of artists such as Ben

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

Nicholson, Marc Chagall, Graham Sutherland and Alberto Giacometti, and that one of his creations fetched a price of more than £100,000.

Using old wood to make the frames and carefully forged artists' signatures to perfect the paintings, Mr Drewe created elaborate stories to lure unknown acquaintances to sell the paintings to galleries and collectors. Dealers they approached included Sotheby's

and Christie's. Southwark Crown Court was told.

While Mr Drewe, 50, of Reigate, Surrey, was driven primarily by a desire for money, his efforts over a 10-year period suggested "an intellectual delight in fooling people", said John Bevan, QC, for the prosecution. His actions also showed contempt for the entire art world, the archives of which had been severely damaged. "He was a consummate and expert operator in his chosen field," Mr Bevan said.

At the heart of the case, the court was told, was Mr Drewe's ability to create histories or "provenances" which showed whether a painting was genuine. He even paid £20,000 to London's Tate Gallery, giving him access to museum archives which he was able to alter. "He realised that if works by famous 20th century artists could be faked and the archive material corrupted he could sell worthless paintings as originals for large sums of money," said Mr Bevan.

He went to great lengths to create such provenances. At one point he entered into lengthy correspondence with an order of Roman Catholic priests - the Order of Servite Mary - to try and add to these histories. He also wrote to the families of the artists he was faking, hoping to glean extra information. They in turn became increasingly concerned as more and more faked paintings, attributed to their relations, flooded the market.

Described by the prosecution as clever, intelligent and articulate, Mr Drewe - whose real name is John Cockett - had chosen to create paintings by important but not universally-known artists. "We all can tell a beautiful Rembrandt just by looking at it. It is not so easy with modern art some of which ... verges on the downright peculiar," said Mr Bevan.

"As a nation we are fortunate to possess an invaluable collection of all kinds of works. The tiny minority are so well known that their authorship is unquestionable. The vast majority, including paintings by modern artists, can, particularly if they are abstract works, be copied or imitated by a skilled painter."

The court was told that Mr Drewe then tricked other people into selling the faked works to collectors and galleries. He told one "salesman" - who happened to be Jewish - that he was a member of a syndicate which was selling the paintings to fund a project which would destroy the revisionist theory of the Holocaust. The salesman, Clive Bellman, saw it was a "worthy cause and was completely taken in".

Water prices to be cut by 10 per cent

THE GOVERNMENT signalled the end of the fat-cat years for the privatised water companies yesterday by telling them to cut prices by 10 per cent and spend £8.5bn on environmental improvements.

Cleaner rivers, beaches and drinking water must all be achieved while prices to the consumer are being cut, the companies were told by John Prescott, Secretary of State for the Environment, and his deputy Michael Meacher, who set the target as a framework for the companies' investment programmes in the first five years of the new millennium.

Meeting both elements would mean an end to the "bonanza" of directors' pay and shareholder dividends seen in recent years, they said, which had come about because water prices had been set too high.

The water companies said they could "face difficulties" in combining a price cut with increased investment, and share prices fell on the announcement.

The proposed programme of accelerated sewage treatment schemes, tighter drinking and bathing water standards and protection for a long list of

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

wildlife sites threatened by sewage or water abstraction delighted environmental groups.

Mr Prescott said the 1989 water privatisation by the Tories had given away public assets and created ideal conditions for making a lot of money. "This is our first chance to get back some of that public investment. Most people will feel prices have been too high for five years and when connected to high profits, they want to see change." The Government believed a 10 per cent cut was possible, he said.

Spelling out the list of environmental improvements on which the Government was insisting, Mr Meacher said the discharge of raw sewage into the sea would be completely stopped. This would improve the quality of bathing water quality, enabling many more British beaches to meet the European Union's Blue Flag standard.

The spreading of untreated sewage sludge on land would be halted, and lead levels in drinking water would be cut by a mas-

sive programme of replacing old pipes. Added protection would also be given to sites of special scientific interest.

The Government's announcement came in the form of official guidance to the water regulator, Ian Byatt, who is reviewing prices for the period 2000-2005. Mr Prescott said he had miscalculated when setting prices for the current five-year period, in 1994, allowing them to be too high.

Responding to the announcement, Brian Duckworth, chairman of Severn-Trent Water and also of the industry's umbrella body, Water UK, said: "We're happy to increase the pace of environmental improvement, but there's a cost attached. If a price cut hits our ability to invest, then we could face difficulties."

The companies were given a sharp warning by Lord De Ramsey, chairman of the Environment Agency, which will oversee the programme. He said: "We will make sure that the full programme of improvements is delivered by the companies by 2005. Stipage will not be acceptable."

Shares fall, page 18



The River Itchen at Eastleigh in Hampshire is one of the finest salmon chalk streams in the country, but there are concerns about the impact that raised levels of ammonia from sewage treatment works are having on the river's salmon population

John Voos

Convicted paedophiles 'must disclose overseas travel plans'

CONVICTED paedophiles will have to notify the police whenever they travel abroad and sex offenders visiting Britain will have to tell the authorities where they are staying, under plans being considered by the Home Office.

The issue of sex offenders who travel abroad was highlighted by the disclosure yesterday that a British-born paedophile who emigrated to Australia 27 years ago is being deported back to Britain.

The 57-year-old man, a former computer salesman in the state of Victoria, has been convicted of 30 sex offences against children in Australia. He now faces deportation and could be sent to Britain within weeks.

But under current British laws the man, known only as VZD for legal reasons, cannot be added to the new Sex Offenders' Register, which enables the authorities to keep track of them.

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

Only people who have been convicted or imprisoned in Britain since September last year are placed on the register and they must notify police of changes to their name and address.

But ministers are known to be concerned about the potential danger of paedophiles secretly travelling to Britain, or going abroad to abuse children in countries such as Thailand.

Home Office officials are reviewing the Sex Offenders Act and are considering adding amendments to the law to force all convicted sex offenders who travel to Britain to sign the register. They are also considering forcing paedophiles in Britain to tell the police whenever they travel abroad.

A Home Office spokesman said: "We are looking at making these possible changes in light

of concerns being raised by the police and others."

The case of VZD echoes that of the paedophiles Robert Oliver and Sidney Cooke, members of a violent sex gang, who were convicted under old legislation. Like them, he will not be covered by current sex offenders' legislation and will not be required to register or be supervised by the probation service.

The paedophile was first jailed in 1991 for attacks on two boys. He was given a six-year sentence, but served only two years and two months after agreeing to attend a special course to rehabilitate sex offenders. On the last day of the course, he admitted abusing a female relative, first when she was aged seven, for four years. Last year he was jailed for seven years.

Earlier this year, VZD was arrested after early release from prison to face a deportation

order because he failed to apply for citizenship and committed his first crime within 10 years of arriving in the country. He is being held in a detention centre awaiting deportation, unless he lodges an appeal within three weeks.

The move was greeted with dismay by campaigners against child abuse in this country. Wendy Copeland, chairwoman of the White Ribbon Campaign, said: "We've got enough paedophiles already in this country draining our resources."

A Home Office spokesman said the paedophile could become the subject of a new Sex Offender Order, which comes into force at the end of the year. The orders can be placed on convicted sex offenders to restrict their movements, or impose other conditions in cases in which the police have evidence that they are likely to commit further crimes.

'Observer' axes 17 journalists in cull

ROGER ALTON, the new editor of the ailing Observer, told 17 staff yesterday that they were being made redundant. The job losses include some of the newspaper's key figures, such as the renowned columnist Sue Arnold and art critic William Feaver.

The newsroom has taken the brunt of the changes, being cut overnight by eight journalists. "I can't think of such a cull in Fleet Street ever," an insider said. "In the old days you might have seen a handful of people go out of a staff of 100, but this is a loss of one-fifth of all the journalists."

Journalists at the paper passed a union motion blaming the former editor, Will Hutton, for the drastic action, which comes after a collapse in circulation under his leadership.

BY JANE ROBINS
Media Correspondent

It said: "The chapel notes the fact that Will Hutton, the former editor who presided over management's most recent debacle has been retained at The Observer at a grossly inflated salary in a new elevated post." He is now editor-in-chief.

Union insiders said strike action was not imminent.

Paul Dunn, the news editor, is to leave, with Mike Durham, the health correspondent, Barry Huggill, who writes on social affairs and feature writer Cal McCrystal. Columnists, such as Mr Hutton, Neil Ascherson and Andrew Marr were spared. The new management is expected to import six new faces to the editorial team soon.

Elderly and disabled 'can't rely on State'

THE ELDERLY and disabled will have to make more provision for themselves and rely less on the state, Alistair Darling, the Secretary of State for Social Security, said last night.

Mr Darling launched a crusade to "modernise" the welfare state and promised that the Government would start to unveil its long-awaited proposals in the next few weeks.

Mr Darling predicted that over the next 50 years, spending on health and education would rise in line with the nation's prosperity.

"As people make more provision for themselves, the share of that welfare spend borne by the state in the form of benefits is likely to fall over the same period," he said.

While he promised to ensure

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

"dignity in retirement" for all, he said people had "a responsibility to put money aside and make provision for themselves in retirement."

Pointing out that 70 per cent of people contributing to the state pension scheme also had an occupational pension, he said: "Over time, we would expect these people and others who are in a position to provide for themselves to do so and rely less on direct payments from the Government."

Mr Darling also made clear his determination to reduce the benefits bill for the sick and disabled, which accounts for about a quarter of the £100bn-a-year social security budget.

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Heads to take charge of £1bn funds

SCHOOLS WILL be able to decide for themselves how to spend a further £1bn after the biggest shake-up of education funding for a decade.

Money for services such as school meals and building repairs will be transferred to schools from local authorities, under government proposals released yesterday. Enterprising head teachers will have the chance to save money for their schools by looking around for the best deals on the market.

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

The changes, which will be in place by 2000, will give all schools the kind of freedom over their budgets enjoyed by schools that opted out of local authority control under the previous government.

At present, the proportion of the schools' budget delegated by local authorities varies. Ministers are determined to address criticisms that ex-

isting funding arrangements allow local authorities to spend excessive amounts on bureaucracy.

They want to make funding more transparent by ensuring that schools everywhere have the same chance to control services.

The consultation paper lays down a clear separation between the spending areas that will be controlled by schools and local authorities.

It proposes to limit town

hall spending to school transport, special education needs, advice on raising standards and planning for school admissions and expansion.

For the first time, schools will have the option of controlling their own bank accounts, money for building repairs, payrolls and insurance, school meals and staffing, such as long-term supply teachers.

They will be able to buy services from local authorities or shop around.

From 2000, authorities will also have to delegate funds to secondary schools for school library and museum services. Primary schools will receive earmarked funds for these.

The proposals ensure that opted-out or grant-maintained schools will retain their existing financial freedom despite Labour abolishing grant-maintained status.

Ministers have responded to criticism that delegated school budgets have led to a de-

cline in music tuition by promising that money from a central government standards fund will be used to ensure that there are no further cutbacks in music.

Estelle Morris, the School Standards minister, said: "This is the biggest and most wide-ranging extension of financial decision-making to schools since the introduction of local management of schools."

The Government will publish a table of how much each local

education authority spends per pupil on each of the services it retains. Those authorities that are spending an excessive amount on administration will be capped.

Teachers' leaders were cautious. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "It must be right that schools should be responsible for making decisions about how their budgets can best be used to support the delivery of the

best possible service at the sharp end. But it will still be necessary to make sure that local education authorities do not retain any more money than is absolutely necessary."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "Increased delegation will not necessarily improve the ability of schools to meet pupils' needs and could lead to them buying services on the basis of cost rather than quality."

Grammars boost price of houses

POPULAR SCHOOLS are adding tens of thousands of pounds to house prices as parents vie to gain places, according to a survey published yesterday.

In some areas, houses in the catchment area of a state school with a good reputation could command premiums of up to £70,000.

Estate agent Knight Frank, which has published a list of the schools most requested by househunters, said the few remaining state grammar schools in counties such as Kent and Buckinghamshire were creating the greatest demand with affluent families moving out of London.

"Being in a good catchment area could be the difference between a £430,000 house and it being the best part of £500,000," said Andrew Harwood, of Knight Frank's Tunbridge Wells office, which covers Kent and East Sussex. "A good school can push the price up by 10 per cent as a rule of thumb."

In Kent, Cranbrook School, a grant-maintained grammar

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

school originally founded in 1518 and granted a royal charter by Elizabeth I, emerged as the most popular with well-heeled housebuyers.

Another leading grammar school, Dr Challoner's High in Amersham, Buckinghamshire, was most popular with househunters in that area. The Royal Grammar School in Guildford, Surrey, Leeds Grammar School and Malvern College, Worcestershire, were all rated highly by prospective housebuyers.

The survey found that the trend away from boarding at independent schools had also had a marked effect, and among those that do board many go home at weekends, so their families are looking for weekend cottages.

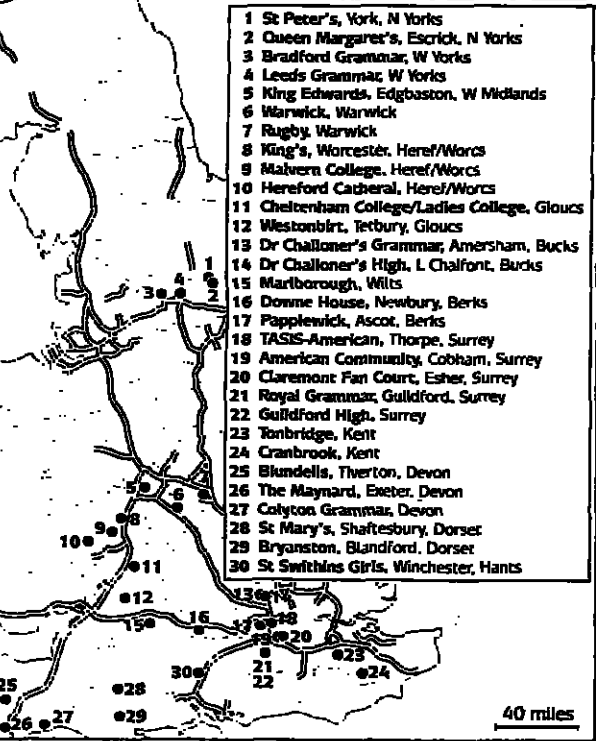
According to the survey parents were prepared to drive further to take their children to a popular school, sometimes accepting a journey of more than 20 minutes to the school gate.



The 800 pupils from Christ's Hospital School, near Horsham, West Sussex, accompanied by 94 instrumentalists of the Marching Band, rehearse in the school grounds for their St Matthew's Day Parade, which will take place tomorrow through the City of London to St Paul's Cathedral for a special service

Tom Pilon

SCHOOLS THAT PUSH UP HOUSE PRICES



Alarm sounded over ambulance service

THE 999 ambulance service is being overwhelmed by rising demand and may be unable to respond rapidly to emergencies in the future unless it weeds out non-urgent calls, according to a report by an NHS watchdog.

Up to 12 per cent of calls are for minor ailments such as cuts and bruises, and in London it has been estimated that up to one-third of the 1,000 calls a month could be handled without taking the patient to a hos-

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

pital accident and emergency department. Although most callers are genuinely worried, and there is little overt abuse of the service, the report by the Audit Commission suggests that some might be treated on the spot or by paramedics who would travel by motorcycle to 999 callers' homes.

It costs £100 to call out an

ambulance and, on average, a person does so once every 16 years. Last year, ambulances responded to 3.2 million emergencies and 1.2 million urgent calls from GPs wanting patients admitted - a 40 per cent rise since 1990.

Almost one in four of the 38 ambulance services in England and Wales failed to meet national 999 targets. These specify they should respond to 95 per cent of calls within 14

minutes in urban areas and 19 minutes in rural areas.

Every 999 call receives the same priority, whether it is a heart attack or a grazed knee, with a blue-light ambulance dispatched immediately to take the patient to hospital. A study in Barnet, north London, found ambulances were being called out for cold and flu symptoms, sore throats, splinters, minor stings and constipation. "If growth in demand continues,

services will find further efficiency improvements harder and harder to make. So it is vital to consider whether some 999 calls could receive a different response," report says.

A two-tier system is being tried in eight areas, to be extended nationally by 2001, where ambulance controllers are required to identify life-threatening incidents by questioning the caller and getting an ambulance to them within eight

minutes. In these services, about one call in four was judged life-threatening. However, the ambulance services are not permitted to let other less serious incidents slip beyond the 14/19-minute standard.

Andrew Foster, controller of the commission, said: "What people lack is somewhere to call in an emergency. They call 999 because they don't know where else to call. Having access to help is what counts."

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Scientist blows the whistle on male chauvinist referees

THE BEAUTIFUL game is still a man's game, according to male referees who cannot see women's football matches as the "real thing", new research reveals.

While football is Britain's fastest growing women's sport, the feeling among referees is still that "there's football and then there's women's football", the British Psychological Society's social psychology conference was told yesterday.

Dr Lindsey Patterson, senior lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University, and a keen player, analysed the behaviour of referees in 28 five-a-side association football matches each lasting 40 min-

utes and involving men's and women's teams.

When supervising women's games, referees' attitudes ranged from "unprintable" comments to yawning and walking off to talk to spectators.

But when it came to men's games, Dr Patterson found that the referees interacted far more with the players, and expressed solidarity with them verbally. "They would call the players mate, fella, lad, encouraging them and talking to them. There is a difficulty as there are no equivalent terms for women but the referees did not even use a safe option such

as calling them by their team colours - "Go on yellow" and so on," she said.

She added that referees were also more likely to explain their decisions to male players, whereas with women they would ignore them or patronisingly recount the rule to them.

They also saw women calling fouls as "overreacting" - either believing that women did not foul deliberately but were just being a "bit clumsy" or that they could not cope with the physical nature of football and reminded the players that it was "a contact sport".

"They also saw someone brought down by a tackle as

lack of skill rather than a foul," Dr Patterson said.

Their interest in the game could also seem minimal. "Some of the referees almost ignored the football, yawning or appearing bored. They also seemed to do a lot more walking off the pitch to talk to people than they did in the men's games," Dr Patterson said. "They also sometimes made questionable comments, most of which are unprintable."

"The image was that men's football was the real thing and women's was not as good," she told the psychologists. "It is still a very male-dominated area and although it is gradually improving there is still a long way to go."

Peer aims to give Celts new time zone

BY RACHEL SYLVESTER

ENGLAND AND Scotland could be put into different time zones under proposals to be laid before Parliament.

Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, the millionaire novelist, has drawn up a backbench Bill proposing that the Scottish and Welsh parliaments should have the power to set their own clocks. Under the plan, MPs at Westminster would also be able to decide what the time should be in England.

If passed, the legislation would almost certainly mean that Scotland, where it gets dark earlier in winter, would be an hour ahead of England and Wales. Train timetables and television schedules would have to be adjusted.

The proposal is part of Lord Archer's bid to become mayor of London. The Tory peer believes it will be popular in the capital because it would give Londoners extra daylight in the summer evenings. He thinks the current system of a single time zone across Britain is an "antiquated" throwback to a previous century.

However, the move will infuriate his fellow Conservatives who will argue that such a change would encourage the break-up of the United Kingdom. The Scottish Tory peers are likely to be particularly angry about the attempt to differentiate them from the rest of Britain.

Blood spillage closes motorway

THOUSANDS OF gallons of blood from a herd of cattle destroyed under BSE regulations spilled on to the M6 yesterday, causing 25-mile traffic jams.

Gridlocked traffic stretched from junction 10 to junction four of the M6 in the West Midlands after the blood spilt from a tanker during the morning rush-hour.

The tanker was travelling from a slaughterhouse in south-west England when a seal failed, pumping blood across the north-bound carriageway between Wednes-

bury and Walsall. The blood was from a herd aged over 36 months that was destroyed under the government Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy regulations.

The Ministry of Agriculture said there was only a very minor risk that the blood was infected with BSE, which had never before been found in blood.

A West Midlands Police spokesman said: "A large quantity of the blood has spilt on to the carriageway. The tanker

has pulled on to the hard shoulder and a clean up operation is currently under way."

Four firefighters, two police officers, the tanker driver and his wife were taken to Walsall Manor Hospital to have the blood washed off, the spokesman added.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture said: "The chances of this blood being infected with BSE are highly remote."

"The independent scientists who advise the Government on measures to control BSE and

protect the public have said that blood has never been found to contain BSE infectivity."

"All animals suspected of having BSE are removed from the herd and slaughtered and incinerated," he said.

All cattle slaughtered for food in the UK are killed before they reach 30 months. But he said the fact that the blood came from cows aged over 36 months suggested it was from milk cows that had come to the end of their working lives and were destroyed so they could not enter the food chain.

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Beating of children to be outlawed

THE LAW is to be changed making it illegal for parents to beat their children, after a landmark European court judgement yesterday in favour of a boy who was caned by his stepfather.

Judges at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg ruled that British law, under which the stepfather was initially acquitted, failed to protect the basic rights of the boy, who was nine at the time of the caning.

"Child A", who cannot be named for legal reasons, was awarded £10,000 in damages plus £20,000 in legal costs. But the ruling also means that ministers will have to amend the law to take account of the judgment. A consultation paper is expected by Christmas and one likely option is that hitting children with a stick or other object will be made illegal.

The case of Child A arose in 1993 when the boy was examined by a paediatrician who found a number of bruises apparently caused by beatings with a garden cane.

The child's stepfather was charged with causing him actual bodily harm and at the subsequent trial, in 1994, did not dispute caning the boy but argued that this amounted to "reasonable" punishment. The jury acquitted the stepfather on a majority verdict, but Child A, backed by his natural father, tested the law against the European Convention on Human Rights, of which the UK is a signatory.

In Strasbourg yesterday judges ruled that the treatment of Child A, who is now 14, was severe enough to reach the level prohibited by Article 3 of the Convention which states that "no one shall be subjected

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels

to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

The court ruled that English law, under which the prosecution must prove that an assault on a child is beyond the limits of reasonable punishment, did not provide sufficient protection.

The ruling, hailed by the boy's lawyers as "one of the biggest changes in child protection law for 130 years" im-



William Hague: Ruling takes nanny state too far

mediately provoked a political row, with the Conservative Party leader, William Hague, claiming that it takes "the nanny state too far".

Meanwhile, pressure groups stepped up calls for a ban on smacking which would bring the UK into line with eight other European countries. Anything less would produce confusion and result in contradictions, they argued.

While promising to change the law, the Government moved swiftly to distance itself from calls for an all-out ban on

smacking in the home. Paul Boateng, the Health minister, said: "Any case of serious violence against a child, and especially in this instance, [where] a young boy was being repeatedly and severely beaten at home, would horrify parents. There is no excuse for such behaviour and it is right and proper to condemn it."

"But this is nothing to do with the issue of smacking. The overwhelming majority of parents know the difference between smacking and beating."

But Mr Hague argued: "We have taken the nanny state too far when we have to have court rulings about what people can do with their own children in their own home on things like this."

"It's up to parents whether they want to smack their children. They don't need a European judge to tell them whether or not they're allowed to do that," he said.

Michael Gardner, litigation partner for Morgan Bruce, the legal firm that represented the boy, said: "I am delighted for Child A who fought this case not only on behalf of himself but to help other children."

"This is one of the biggest changes in child protection law for 130 years. We await the government legislation with interest - it is likely they will consider banning implements altogether."

Janet Convery, co-ordinator of the forum on children and violence at the National Children's Bureau, said: "We welcome the judgment and hope that the Government will take the opportunity to ban physical punishment and give children the same legal protection that adults have."



Pupils from St Peter and St Paul's Roman Catholic Primary School in South Shields view 'The Hand' by the artist David Gross. The 12ft structure, featuring a propeller in the palm of the hand and based on a design by the pupils, stands on the banks of the river Tyne and is meant to be a symbolic greeting to ships using the river. *Raoul Dixon*

Freed nurse could be home 'in days'

BY CHRIS HAMILTON

A BRITISH nurse cleared of murdering her unfaithful husband after she shot him dead may be home from America "in days", her lawyer said yesterday.

Helen Cummings, 33, was found not guilty of the second degree murder of her husband, Tyler Cummings, after a Florida jury decided she acted in self-defence. She is eight-and-a-half months pregnant with the couple's child.

Warner Olds, her lawyer, said Mrs Cummings was so desperate to go home to Preston, Lancashire, to see her one-year-old son that she may fly despite being near full term.

He said: "As far as I'm aware the pregnancy does not stop her from flying if she wants to. I don't know if she'll be back by the weekend but it could be within days."

The maternity nurse admitted killing her husband and had been facing life imprisonment if found guilty, but the jury unanimously cleared her on the ninth day of her trial in Florida.

The court heard how she thought her husband would kill her after she confronted him with pictures of him naked with another woman.

The outcome was received with relief by her mother, Marion Billington, in Preston where she is looking after her daughter's son, Terry.

Mrs Billington said: "I have not spoken to Helen long enough to know what her plans are. She just cried, she wants to get back to see Terry and he wants to see her."

"It is the right decision, she had suffered enough."

During the trial Mrs Cummings told the court how she feared for her life and had even contemplated suicide when she shot her husband at their home in Fort Lauderdale on 14 February.

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Setback for Ashdown on school trusts

PADDY ASHDOWN suffered an embarrassing defeat yesterday when party activists overwhelmingly voted against key proposals to shift power over schools to parents from local councillors, many of whom are Liberal Democrats.

But immediately after the defeat, Mr Ashdown vowed to continue to press for the controversial introduction of Neighbourhood School Trusts, which would consist of community-based groups such as parish councils.

As part of his campaign to change the education structure, he has asked Liverpool city council, which has a Liberal Democrat majority, to set up the independent trusts on a trial basis.

"The vote was disappointing. But we are determined to take this forward and we stand by the broad principle with a longer campaign of consultation," he said.

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat education spokesman who drew up the proposals, said the policy was "far from dead".

"The underpinning principle of the trusts are the underpinning principle of Liberal

EDUCATION
By SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Correspondent

Democracy and they are principles I have campaigned for my whole political life," Mr Foster said.

Under the scheme, councils would sign contracts with the new trusts to run schools according to specified standards and would take on a monitoring role.

Jackie Ballard, a member of the party's local government team, welcomed the vote, warning that the plans would diminish the role of local authorities, an area where Liberal Democrat representation is the strongest.

Summing up the debate, Mr Foster told the conference that the trusts would offer communities the opportunity to get involved in education in their area at a time when the present system was failing.

"Some people have been saying that the trusts would be opting out all over again. Well it is not," he said.

"We want local authorities to set out what each and every citizen should be entitled to ex-

pect from the education service. Communities must be at the centre of everything we do."

Many party activists argued, however, that the proposals echoed the Conservative government's policy of allowing schools to opt out of local education authority control.

Mary Wane, from Westmorland and Lonsdale, was given rapturous applause when she warned against the changes. "Please do not add any further disruption to our schools system by trying to impose a measure that is neither necessary nor desirable," she said.

Mrs Wane was scornful of suggestions that a vast "untapped reservoir" of people existed, just waiting to get involved, and argued that local communities were already involved in local schools in areas like hers.

Peter Downes, from Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, said the general reaction to the proposals had been to think "What a barmy idea".

And he added: "My fear is that it is so blatantly absurd that it will undermine our credibility and distract attention away from our other proposals."



Lib Dem education spokesman Don Foster with Joanna Wallace, 3, and Daniel Miller, 4, at Turnerland Nursery School, Brighton John Voos

Anti-terror measures 'shocking'

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS yesterday attacked the Government's emergency anti-terrorism legislation as "shocking" despite MPs supporting it in a vote in the Commons earlier this month.

The about-turn was criticised by the Conservatives, who accused the party of having shown itself yet again to be "soft" on terrorism.

But Lembit Opik, who spoke

NORTHERN IRELAND
By SARAH SCHAEFER

in support of the emergency motion at the party's conference, denied there had been a policy change, stressing that the vote reaffirmed the Liberal Democrats' commitment to replace the existing Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy) Act with a comprehensive legislative package.

"It is irresponsible of the Tories to suggest otherwise," he said. The draconian measures, which were passed amid the terrorist atrocities of Omagh, Nailor and Dar es Salaam, make it easier to secure convictions of proscribed members of terrorist organisations, such as the Real IRA, by allowing the evidence of senior police officers to be submitted to courts.

It also makes it a criminal offence to conspire to commit a criminal act abroad. Mr Opik, the Ulster-born son of Estonian refugees who fled Stalin's troops in the Second World War, said he spent eight years fighting for the independence of Estonia by attending demonstrations against the Soviet regime in Britain, a protest which would be illegal under the Bill.

He said that the parliament-

ary party had voted for the legislation because it was needed to move forward the peace process in Northern Ireland.

However, he attacked the clauses of the Act dealing with the international dimension, saying: "We did the right thing and we made it clear that we opposed the clauses to combat international terrorism. We will not beholden to the media circus of Tony Blair."

Disarmament move fails

DEFENCE
By COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

THE LIBERAL Democrat leadership yesterday headed off a potentially embarrassing move to commit the party to United Kingdom unilateral nuclear disarmament by 2003.

The move was defeated on a large show of hands after pleas by Baroness Williams and Menzies Campbell, the foreign affairs spokesman in the Lords and the Commons.

Mr Campbell earlier told the conference the Liberal Democrats would carry out their own review of defence policy, including nuclear weapons, following the Government's strategic defence review. "This motion would pre-empt that review. It is not the way to make policy on an issue of such importance. The amendment should be rejected," he said.

Winding up the defence and foreign affairs debate, Lady Williams, a former Labour minister, urged the conference to re-

ject the unilateralist motion submitted by 42 representatives and the constituencies of Cambridge and Peckham, and Oxford West and Abingdon.

"This is a very dangerous time to move away from trying to establish an international structure of order. I plead with Liberal Democrats to fight against this amendment," she said.

The conference gave its backing to the policy for "retaining a minimum nuclear deterrent as a weapon of last resort for the foreseeable future".

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Scarlet vision steps lightly into view

THE SKETCH

QUEEN DIANA yesterday ascended to the throne of Liberal Democracy at the Brighton Conference Centre. Once a commoner, the former Christchurch by-election victor, Diana Maddock, was ennobled as the Baroness Maddock last year. She has since been elected president of the Liberal Democrats and was crowned - in a ceremony described by her predecessor, Robert Maclellan, as "pregnant with symbolism".

During Mr Maclellan's eulogy extolling her many virtues she was nowhere to be seen, but as he proclaimed her name she appeared from behind the platform screen. If it had been a Tory conference production during the Thatcher reign, Diana would have arrived to a trumpet fanfare with flowers strewn in her path. The audience would have stood, before falling to its knees swearing oaths of allegiance and party loyalty.

Instead no music, no fanfares, no sweeping in: just a couple of steps on to the rostrum. Looking less than regal, the new president nevertheless cut a striking figure in a scarlet, knee-length dress and jacket. For her sceptre there was a gavel and for her orb there was a copy of John Stuart Mill's *On Liberty*.

In her acceptance speech

Don Foster had come up with a policy proposal to replace education authorities with "neighbourhood schools trusts", which was supposed to vest "power in the people".

Sadly, the leadership had forgotten that education is the heartbeat of delegates. If they are not councillors they are invariably headmasters, teachers or education officers. Many have a vested interest in backing the National Union of Teachers against the likes of Chris Woodhead, who faced angry delegates at a packed fringe meeting the night before.

Now that the party has 46 MPs there are backbenchers as well as party spokesmen. So we had Jackie Ballard, the fierce and feisty MP for Taunton, speaking trenchantly against her own hierarchy. Mr Foster and Mr Ashdown, sitting humbly on the platform, both found it difficult to react. Shakes of their heads and the withholding of applause indicated that they were less than pleased.

Well, at least it shows that the party's spin doctors are working their seductive magic as they spread their message that "one more heave and we really can make it".

Anyway, the leadership didn't make it yesterday and the peasants won the vote on a show of hands. A good day for party democracy if not for Liberal Democracy.

CONFERENCE BRIEFS

Call for ban on gene-altered food

LIBERAL Democrats yesterday called for a five-year ban on genetically modified (GM) food to allow more research into its impact on the environment.

The conference proposed an EU-wide moratorium and demanded clearer labelling of GM products. Among other environmental measures, delegates urged an Environmental Responsibility Act, requiring the inclusion of a "green chapter" in the Budget.

Sex education needs a boost

SEX EDUCATION in schools should be taken more seriously to prevent unwanted teenage pregnancies, a former biology teacher and Liberal Democrat activist said yesterday.

Joan Walmsley, from Congleton, Cheshire, raised a laugh at the conference when she said pupils were being taught about sex by reluctant and "pretty mechanical" teachers who have no formal training.

Today's business

Emergency motions on speeding up the process of dealing with asylum seekers, and the release from prison of Ruth Sandberg, detained in Italy for an alleged drug offence.

■ Debate on home affairs policy, including an extra 6,000 police.
■ A debate criticising the Government's decision to restrict legal aid.
■ Keynote address by Paddy Ashdown.
■ Conference closes

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University students tucking in to breakfast at the Merriem Thistle Hotel in Leeds

Students check in at four-star hotel

STUDENTS ARRIVING for their first taste of academic life in Leeds are eschewing the rigours of shared digs and instead have found themselves booked into en-suite rooms in one of the city's plush four-star hotels.

Thirty undergraduates from the University of Leeds are enjoying satellite television, crisp linen and a choice of full English breakfast or freshly baked croissants at the Merriem Thistle Hotel.

The students have been forced to live in the £100-a-night hotel because contractors have not finished work on their new accommodation. The university has negotiated a cut-price deal with the hotel, which is letting one-third of its rooms to students until further notice.

The undergraduates have taken readily to 24-hour room service and free in-house movies; one student even

BY GARY FINN

charged a taxi to the university when late for lectures. There are also the all-important tea and coffee-making facilities and a trouser press so students can steer clear of ironing.

The move is the latest measure to cope with burgeoning student numbers. Previous years have seen universities and colleges around the country turning sports halls into soup kitchens with camp-beds, doubling up single rooms with bunk beds and booking students into empty council houses or hostels.

The hotel bill will be paid by the building company that is still renovating their rooms.

A Leeds University spokeswoman said: "They were told they would be staying in the hotel shortly after arriving at the Springfield Mount annexe of the Charles Morris hall of

residence. We are very, very disappointed that the contractors did not fulfil the terms of their contract and we have made our position very clear."

The university decided to put the students into the hotel "rather than having them spread across the city in bed and breakfasts with all the difficulties in communicating with them and bearing in mind some parents may not have looked too kindly on us if we put their sons and daughters in some run-down seedy place."

The move has gone down well with most of the students. Nick Woodrow, 18, from Buckinghamshire, who is studying civil engineering, said: "We have been quiet so far but I don't think the staff are very happy - in fact I think some are a bit put out because they are already paying for our education. The TV facilities are excellent and it's great to sit up

all night and watch the movies. It's better than home."

Hannah Stringer, 18, from Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, a first-year sports science and physiology student, said: "We don't really want to be seen as loafing students just taking another freebie - but I could stay here all the time."

Still, there seems to be no pleasing some people. Simon Mudd, 18, a chemistry student from Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, said: "To be honest it's a bit of a hassle having to walk to and from the university. If we were in the halls, we would be on campus and able to walk straight into lectures."

"I'm not really complaining, though, because we are getting free food on a morning and I can recommend the full English breakfast. Being a first-year, though, it means I'm missing out on mingling with the rest of the freshers in the halls."

Doctors want time limit on appointments

PATIENTS SHOULD not be forced to wait longer than seven days to see their family doctor, or two weeks to see a consultant about an urgent illness, doctors' leaders said yesterday.

Presidents from Britain's royal medical colleges and doctors representing the British Medical Association demanded that the Department of Health adopt four new waiting list targets to "empower patients".

The Government has pledged to bring down the waiting list by 100,000 during this Parliament.

But Professor Sir Norman Browse, chairman of the Joint Consultants Committee, said the real waiting list, and the measure of the efficiency of the NHS, should be the number of patients who have not been seen within appropriate time limits. "The important thing we need to know is the number of patients we fail," he said.

Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, has written to Sir Norman, saying that the Government "fully recognises the importance of ensuring that decisions about treatment for patients on NHS waiting lists are on the basis of clinical need".

The committee's targets say that a wait for a non-urgent appointment with a GP should never be longer than seven days. At present the situation is "very variable" across the country, Sir Norman said.

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

Patients who urgently need to see a consultant should be seen within two weeks and those with less urgent conditions should be seen within three months.

Patients waiting for a hospital to diagnose their condition should not have to wait longer than six weeks after the initial consultation, as waiting for a diagnosis can be the most stressful time.

People with urgent conditions should be admitted to hospital within two weeks, because further delay could lead to the illness worsening.

Those with serious disabilities, such as cataract and hip replacements, should be admitted within three months of being on the waiting list.

No patient with a less urgent condition should have to wait more than a year.

The committee also recommends that people on either GP or hospital waiting lists should have the waiting time deadline listed next to their name.

"There are lots of difficulties in getting the data but that doesn't mean one shouldn't encourage the attempt to do it," Sir Norman said.

Mr Dobson said that the department was "keen to see greater consistency across the NHS on this as part of the overall approach to modernising the waiting system".

IN BRIEF

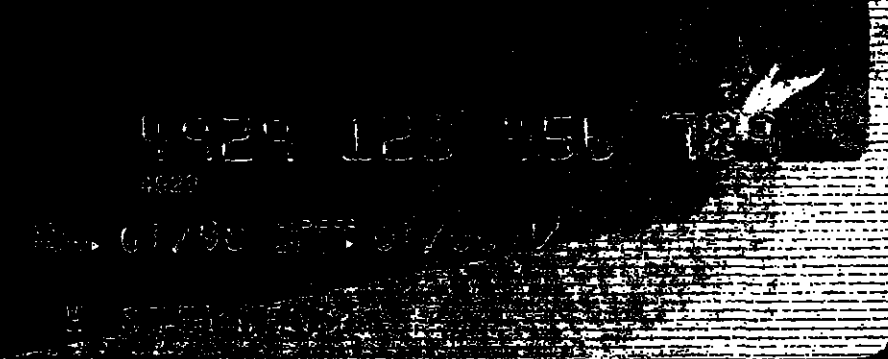

- Gladiator trial jury sent home**
THE JURY in the trial of Michael Ahearne, the *Gladiators* star "Warrior", who is accused of acting as a go-between for a senior detective and a gangland boss, was sent home until this morning. Mr Ahearne and two others deny corruption and perverting the course of justice.
- Northern Ireland killers freed**
THREE MEN convicted of double murders were among five life-sentence prisoners freed from jail in Northern Ireland yesterday under the Good Friday Agreement early release scheme. Two were loyalists and a third from the IRA.
- Doctor took biopsy by hand**
A Gynaecologist accused of serious professional misconduct yesterday admitted pulling a sample from a patient's tumour with his hands. Consultant Rodney Ledward, 59, denies 25 misdemeanours.
- Children urged to exercise**
CHILDREN AND young people need to exercise for one hour a day to enjoy better physical and mental health, the Health Education Authority said in a report yesterday. Regular exercise also enhances self-esteem.
- Lottery show 'screened too early'**
THE BBC's *National Lottery Big Ticket* encouraged young people to gamble illegally, the Broadcasting Standards Commission said yesterday. The watchdog said it should not have been screened at 7pm when children were watching.

MILES KINGTON

'Psychologists now believe that a person cursed with a name like Somerset Maugham or Kingsley Amis has to escape into writing'

— THE THURSDAY REVIEW, PAGE 2 —

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Clerics start to lose their grip in Iran

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The battle between Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and Mr Khatami's supporters is being fought in the press where the magazine *Rah-e No* (New Way) has carried an article by the late Grand Ayatollah Abolghassem Mousavi Khoei that seemed to question whether Iran's government should have a supreme spiritual leader at all.

Rushdie will have to live out his days with the *fatwa* extant if no longer applicable - unless a freelance killer decides to honour Khomeini's wishes. This is not an attractive state of affairs for Rushdie, nor for the British Foreign Office, but President Khatami's statement on Tuesday is about as good as they are going to get.

The President can control the country's armed forces - that was the thrust of Mr Mo-

The Supreme Leader may indeed be enthusiastic for a war against the Taliban although President Khatami, by embarking on serious political negotiations at the United Nations to avoid a conflict, has effectively prevented any military offensive. Ayatollah Khamenei is on the defensive.

Meanwhile, Iran – so long the target of Western condemnation for its alleged “backwardness” and fundamentalism – now finds itself in the position of condemning the Taliban’s pseudo-Islamic laws against women and their ferocious punishments – knowing full well that the Taliban is a paid creature of Saudi Arabia, Washington’s favourite ally in the Gulf.

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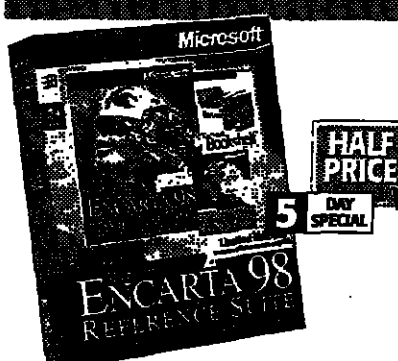
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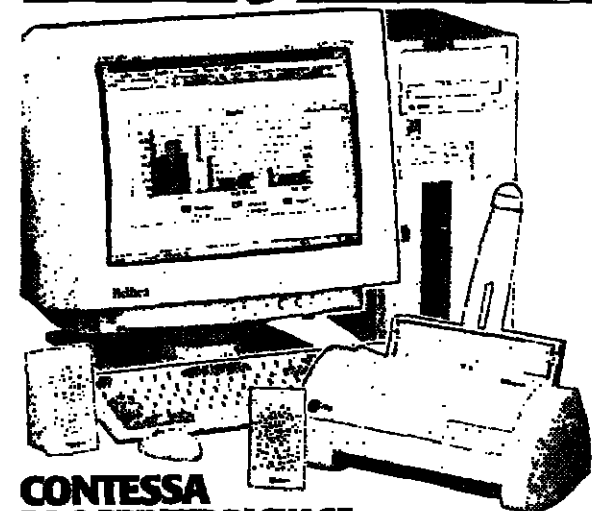
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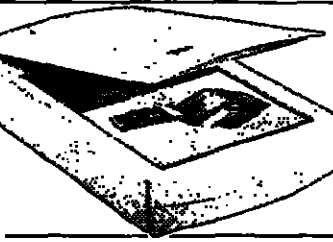
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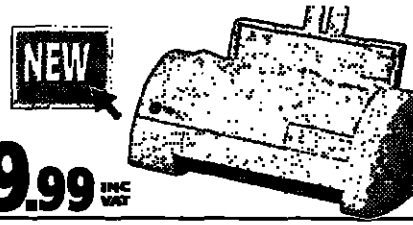
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Presidential crisis: Congress prepares for impeachment hearing as Bill Clinton wins new friends in the ghettos

Republicans reject talk of early deal

SENIOR REPUBLICANS rejected an early deal with President Clinton to pre-empt impeachment hearings in the Monica Lewinsky affair yesterday, but allowed that he should have a chance to put his case before a final decision was taken.

The rebuttal came amid pledges from both sides to use the Watergate impeachment hearings as a model for further action and strong words from

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

a succession of elder statesmen blaming Mr Clinton for diminishing the office of president.

Signalling that overtures from the White House had so far fallen on deaf ears, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich, said that the House had to finish its own inquiries before

any decision was made.

"For anybody to talk about doing anything before we finish the investigative process simply puts the cart before the horse," he said. "There's an awful lot of evidence that hasn't been gathered yet."

The other evidence relates to the continuing investigations being conducted by the independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr into the Whitewater land

deal in Arkansas and two earlier cases relating to the Clinton White House - the dismissal of the travel office staff (Travelgate) and the transfer to the White House of confidential FBI files (Gategate).

But Mr Gingrich did hold out the prospect of a hearing for Mr Clinton before the judiciary committee, conceding: "The President has not had an opportunity to present his case."

Mr Gingrich was reporting on a meeting of leaders of the House and its judiciary committee held to discuss a possible timetable for instituting impeachment hearings.

While one of the stated purposes of yesterday's meeting was also to restore a spirit of "bipartisanship", the two sides emerged as far apart as ever. The two senior Democrats at the meeting - the House minority

leader, Dick Gephardt, and the senior Democrat on the judiciary committee, John Conyers - refused to join Mr Gingrich's briefing and held a separate press conference to lambaste their Republican colleagues for - as they saw it - needlessly trying to draw out the process and not heading Democrats' strictures about the release of the Lewinsky documents.

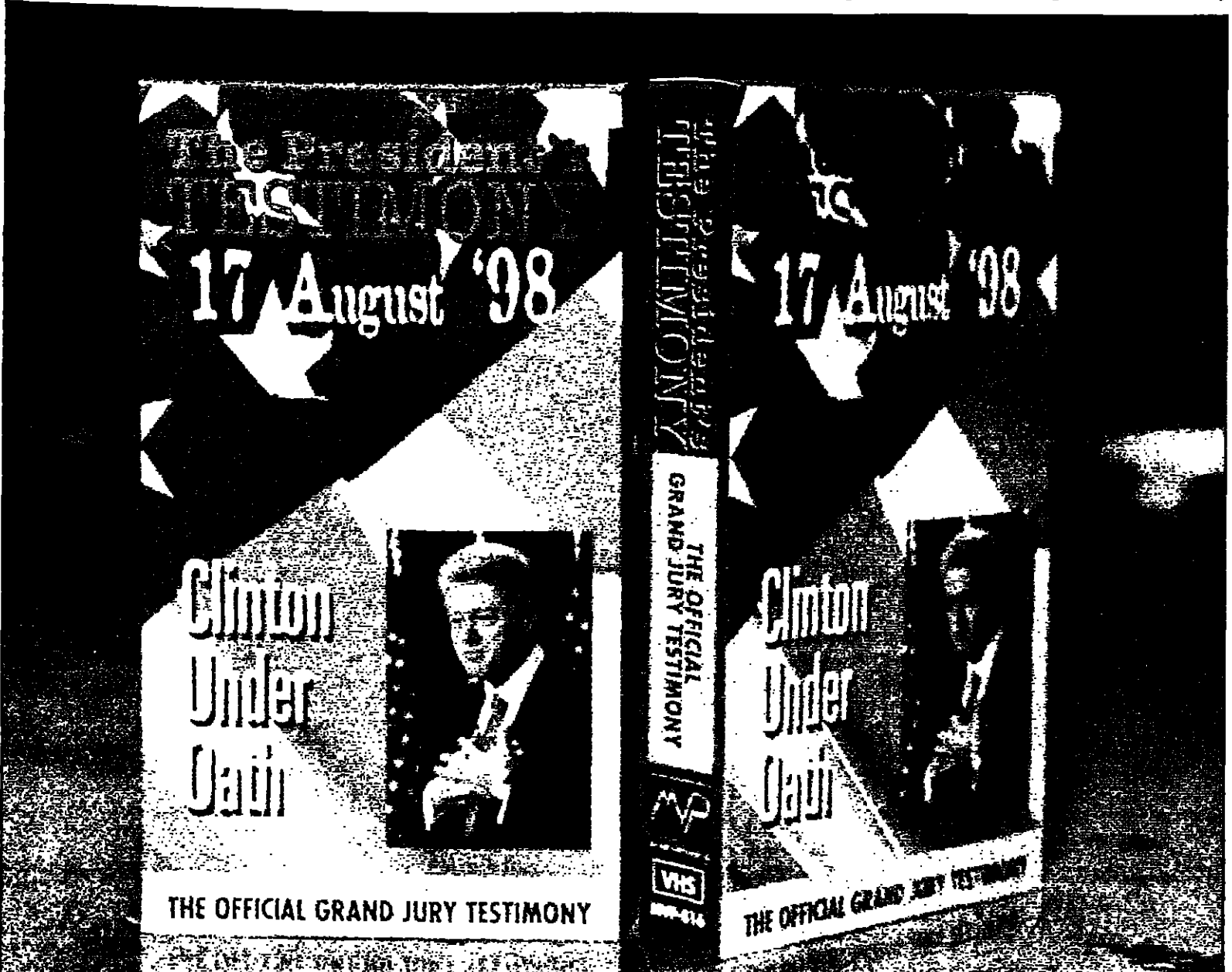
Mr Gephardt said that he

and Mr Conyers had requested that the current judiciary committee investigation could and should be concluded "in the next 30 days or so". The committee meets again today when it will consider how many more of the documents - another 16 boxes - in the Lewinsky investigation should be made public.

A number of elder statesmen, meanwhile, weighed in on the discussion about the affair.

The former president George Bush told an interviewer that while the presidency was "bigger than one person", he feared the office had been damaged.

The former president Jimmy Carter said he had "deplored and been deeply embarrassed about" Mr Clinton's relationship with Ms Lewinsky. He forecast that the Senate would not produce the two-thirds majority necessary for impeachment.



Copies of the video 'The President's Testimony' ready for shipment from California

Blacks in LA plan protest for Clinton

BY ANDREW GUMBEL
in Los Angeles

JUST WHEN Bill Clinton might have thought he was running out of friends, the black community of Los Angeles - at the epicentre of rioting against authority in 1992 - has offered to stage a rally of support when he flies into town for a fund-raising dinner this weekend.

Minority groups, and blacks in particular, have always been an important constituency for Mr Clinton. Throughout the Monica Lewinsky scandal, blacks have consistently polled as the group most supportive of the embattled President - partly because they see parallels between their own treatment at the hands of the police and judiciary and Ken Starr's dogged pursuit of the President.

And the city that exploded in fury at the police beating of Rodney King, and then chose to acquit O J Simpson because the jury did not trust the police evidence, wants to support him.

James Mays, a black community leader in Watts, south central Los Angeles, said: "We want him to have a spontaneous response from the broad mosaic of residents in South Central, not just blacks but Hispanics, Asians and many others. We want him to look at the young people and adults who really believe in him and let him know he is moving in the right direction."

Community action has

been particularly strong since the publication of the Starr report and the airing of Mr Clinton's videotaped grand jury testimony. Maxine Waters, the congresswoman from South Central and a member of the all-important house judiciary committee, made an impassioned speech in Washington, supporting the President. Mr Mays and a group of other activists voted to honour Mr Clinton with a paving slab on their so-called Promenade of Prominence in downtown Watts - the community equivalent of the stars on Hollywood Boulevard inscribed with the names of film legends.

Whether the mass rally will take place is not yet clear. Dr Mays said he had been in touch with White House staff and promised a crowd of five to ten thousand. An answer is expected in the next day or two.

But the gesture is in itself remarkable when much of the political talk in America has been about impeachment, not giving Mr Clinton a leg-up.

The black community appears less perturbed than most by the President's affair and his subsequent denials under oath. According to Geraldine Washington, president of

the Los Angeles chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, this is because any wrongdoing is clearly outweighed by the vehemence of the backlash against him.

"What we're seeing is the ideology of a dominant culture that wants to get you at all costs," she said. "We've had similar experiences - how they keep after you until they find your weak point. This is oppressive pressure that we can relate to," she said.

Mr Clinton also enjoys strong support among minority groups for his policies - surprising since he pushed through deep cuts in welfare before his 1996 re-election. "We recognise he needed to do that to get re-elected and we appreciate his efforts to stand up for social programmes, education and health in spite of the welfare reforms," Dr Washington added.

If Mr Clinton can keep minorities on his side and persuade them to turn out to vote in November, it could also allay fears among his fellow Democrats that they are in for a scandal-driven rout. "We are the most vocal, some would say the noisiest, ethnic group," said Dr Mays. "We have the tradition of civil rights and we know better than anyone how to sing 'We Shall Overcome'."

Kohl hints at 'grand coalition' after poll

ALMOST INSEPARABLE in the polls, the visible distinctions between Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his challenger faded further yesterday as Germans were confronted with the prospect of a "grand coalition" after this Sunday's vote.

In a televised interview last night, Mr Kohl conceded for the first time that the two biggest parties might be condemned to govern together. "I consider a grand coalition to be possible in principle, because democrats have to be able to form coalitions with each other," the Chancellor said.

In the glacial world of German politics, this admission of political reality was treated as a sensation. Christian Democrat spin doctors scrambled to issue "clarifications", urging editors to take a closer look at the rest of the interview, particularly the part where Mr Kohl declares: "I will not be the leader of a grand coalition."

Until now, the Chancellor's

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

strategy consisted of presenting Sunday's elections as a choice between himself, or a coalition of Social Democrats and Greens. Gerhard Schröder, the Social Democrat challenger, had always denied that. He had shown willingness to deal with anyone but the post-Communists of eastern Germany. In a television interview on Monday night, he even suggested he was prepared to play second fiddle in a government led by Christian Democrats.

With the polls consistently predicting an extremely close race, a marriage of convenience has always been regarded as one of the most possible outcomes of Sunday's vote. Never has an opposition party come to power in elections in post-war Germany. Willy Brandt became the first Social Democrat chancellor in 1969 after serving three years

as junior partner to the Christian Democrats.

With such a precedent, Mr Kohl is understandably not keen to repeat the experience. After the last "grand coalition", the Christian Democrats were out of power for 13 years.

But this time the prospect of such a government is seen as the logical outcome of the blurring of the differences between the two great parties. After six months of campaigning, the voters can be excused for feeling a little confused.

With Chancellor Kohl, at least they know where they stand. After 16 years of "stability and peace", the incumbent is promising four more. At the hustings, Mr Kohl runs through his achievements, drops a few promises about trying to bring down unemployment and reform taxation and plays on his image as the trusted pilot in stormy seas.

The Social Democrats, on the other hand, speak with

forked tongues. Leftists, such as the party chairman Oskar Lafontaine, hark back to the values of traditional socialism: safe jobs, safe pensions and lots of child benefits.

This is the mantra that Mr Schröder adopted for his rallies, whilst his real message, about the need for "structural reforms" in the welfare state and jobs market, is being delivered surreptitiously.

The differences between the Kohl product and the Schröder vision boil down to style. Mr Schröder, 54, plays pop and jazz at his rallies, while Mr Kohl's crowds are warned up by pomp bands.

The real choice is between change, offered by Mr Schröder with a nudge and a wink, and permanence, which the Chancellor has written all over him. That much Germans understand, but how those contradictions could be resolved in a joint government, nobody can fathom.



Helmut Kohl is made up for an interview yesterday

Desperate Chancellor enlists his wife's support

CHANCELLOR HELMUT Kohl is mobilising every potential voter in the last days of the German general election campaign. Celebrities have been wheeled out, athletes pressured for endorsements, and now even the First Lady is coming to the aid of the party with a media-blitz.

BY IMRE KARACS

Hannelore Kohl, often mockingly referred to as the Barbie of the Palatinate because of her hairstyle and priggish demeanour, has suddenly been discovered to have views on matters other than cooking or her favourite charity.

Whatever German voters might be thinking about the wisdom of choosing a 68-year-old leader for another term, Mrs Kohl is certain that retirement is not on the cards.

"My husband as a pensioner? Inconceivable," she told Zeit-Magazin in one of a series

of interviews that hit the news-stands yesterday. "He has shaped history, brought progress to the country and Europe and for good reasons would like to exercise further influence."

The woman behind Europe's most powerful man has no fear of the family fish tank being

thrown out of the Chancellery in the near future. "He is a political long-distance runner," Mrs Kohl explains. "He will win on the final bend."

Hannelore Kohl, a fluent speaker of English and French, is normally happy to play the Housewife and takes pains to maintain a low political profile.

She is also said to be a very private person. Yet here she is indulging in a bit of gossip about her husband's favourite dishes, and reminiscing about the time the Gorbachevs popped in for dinner.

Could she, wonder the Social Democrats, be the last throw of the re-elect Kohl campaign?

IN BRIEF

- Hurricane heads for Florida**
UP TO 100,000 people were ordered to begin evacuating the exposed Florida Keys island chain in advance of a possible strike by Hurricane Georges. South Florida was put under a hurricane watch as the deadly storm emerged into open water between Haiti and eastern Cuba. The state governor, Lawton Chiles, declared an emergency in central and southern Florida, allowing the state to use the National Guard, lift tolls along evacuation routes and buy emergency supplies.
- Leaders discuss Kashmir**
THE PRIME ministers of India and Pakistan met yesterday amid international pressure to settle their differences over Kashmir, a dispute that turned ominous since both countries carried out nuclear tests last May. The meeting between Pakistan's Nawaz Sharif and India's Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the second since their nuclear tests drew international condemnation and increased pressure for both sides to sign the nuclear test ban treaty.
- Slovakia campaign ends**
SLOVAKIA'S ELECTION campaign officially ended, leaving a two-day cooling off period before polls. Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar's Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS), was put at 25 per cent in the opinion polls. The four opposition parties have all said they would never work with Mr Meciar.
- Malaysia bans demonstrations**
MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES questioned the wife of the country's anti-government protest leader and banned demonstrations across the nation. About 1,000 supporters of the sacked finance minister, Anwar Ibrahim, briefly gathered outside a Kuala Lumpur courthouse when rumours spread that he might be brought there in his first public appearance since his arrest three days ago.
- Commonwealth hope for Nigeria**
THE COMMONWEALTH will consider readmitting Nigeria after it holds elections next year, said Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the secretary-general. It would be difficult to continue to exclude the African state if elections produced a "credible, democratic" government, he said, after meeting Nigeria's new leader, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, in London.



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Lesotho counts cost of intervention

BY ED O'LOUGHLIN
in Maseru

MASERU'S MAIN tourist office, three kilometres from the border with the Orange Free State, is the first thing visitors encounter on the way from South Africa. Built in the shape of a giant Basotho hat - a conical woven sombrero with a little wicker bobble on top - the thatched building is the town's most distinctive landmark.

Or at least it was until the early hours of yesterday morning, when a mob burnt it down. The savage rage that ripped the heart out of Maseru, capital of the tiny mountain kingdom, caught most people by surprise, including it seems the South African government.

South Africa's first military intervention since the end of apartheid in 1994 has proved extremely costly. Its forces were mopping up stubborn resistance near a Lesotho military compound yesterday while soldiers from Botswana fanned out in the kingdom's gutted capital to stop looting.

Scattered gunfire and explosions still echoed through the capital and many shops were still smouldering from fires set on Tuesday, when 600 South African troops crossed the border to quell a military uprising.

The military command in Pretoria said eight South African soldiers had died in the operation, with 17 wounded. But a senior officer in Maseru said 10 were killed at the military compound in Tuesday's fighting.



An Indian businessman stands guard outside his shop as looting continues in Maseru, capital of Lesotho

When South Africa sent 600 troops across the border it was planning a quick, clean operation to end seven weeks of mounting chaos and disarm the mutinous Lesotho Defence Force, a longstanding obstacle

to political progress. By yesterday evening, the Lesotho Defence Force, minus 40 of its own dead, was still swapping mortar fire with the South Africans at Makoanyane army base on the outskirts of town.

For the second day running civilians were left to loot the city centre unimpeded, while gangs of teenaged "opposition youths" set fire to public and private buildings along the Kingsway, hijacked cars and

tried to rob and kill passing journalists. Meanwhile Major Ben van Zyl of the South African National Defence Forces was assuring the media that the situation was in hand. "Contingency measures are

in place to stabilise Lesotho," he said. "We will make sure that loss and damage of civilian property is minimal." Built on a rocky hillside overlooking the city, the firecourt of the Lesotho Sun Hotel offered



An injured looter receives treatment in hospital

a panoramic view of Maseru's disgrace yesterday afternoon. Four hundred yards below, hundreds of Basotho civilians were swarming in and out of the Metro Cash and Carry and setting down in the car park to sort through their loot.

As the number of triumphant "affirmative shoppers" gradually subsided, a puff of smoke appeared from beneath the building's tin roof, followed soon after by a burst of flame. Heavy black smoke spiralled off into the pall already hanging over the city.

The looters seemed unfazed by the machine gun fire and dull explosions that had erupted just around the corner on the main Kingsway street, where half a dozen South African armoured vehicles had appeared and were exchanging shots with unseen adversaries.

Fresh smoke began billowing from a building further

down the street. It seemed like a good time for Major van Zyl's contingency plans to be put into effect.

In the car park of the Queen Elizabeth II hospital on the Kingsway, Mr Pelele Letsoela watched volunteer Red Cross workers unload the third civilian corpse brought to the hospital in less than an hour, a young woman killed in crossfire near the Makoanyane barracks.

A respectable farmer and supporter of the opposition Basotho National Party, he was enraged at the destruction which, he said, South Africa had wreaked on the city.

Another man present, dressed in a working man's blue overalls, looked sadly over at the row of gutted shops across the road. "This is too sad," he said. "Where will the money come from to put all this back? Who will want to build again in Lesotho?"

Belgian outcry over refugee death on plane

AN INQUIRY has been launched into the death of a young west African refugee who was allegedly handcuffed and in leg irons when a cushion was used to silence her screams as 11 Belgian police attempted to deport her.

Semira Adamu, 20, was being forced onto a Sabena flight bound for Togo, in the authorities' fifth attempt to deport her, when she went into a coma. Horrified passengers remonstrated with the captain after witnessing the brutal way in which she was said to be manhandled by police. Fearing a riot the pilot refused to take off until she had been removed.

Demonstrators gathered outside the home of the Belgian Interior Minister Louis Tobback yesterday for a candlelit vigil after Ms Adamu's death was announced. Women's groups, opposition MPs and doctors demanded a moratorium on refugee expulsions. Anne Marie Lizin, a Socialist Senator, said: "They have practically assassinated that young girl."

The Government said it was waiting for the results of an autopsy and two of the gendarmes who took part in the expulsion operation were being questioned. Ms Adamu was carried on to the plane in handcuffs and leg irons by a special police unit.

The tragedy brought to an abrupt end the Belgian authorities' fifth attempt to expel Ms Adamu who had featured in a documentary on national television three days prior to her death. Despite scepticism, even among refugee campaigners, about her story, she had become a symbol of the inhumanity of the country's refugee policy.

Ms Adamu fled her native

BY KATHERINE BUTLER
in Brussels

Nigeria to escape what she claimed was an arranged marriage but her asylum application was repeatedly rejected. She had been held in a closed detention centre near Brussels airport since April.

The public prosecutors office confirmed yesterday that the "cushion method" of restraining refugees who resist expulsion is "habitual". Around 15,000 expulsions from Belgium take place each year.



Adamu: Victim of an 'inhuman' policy

The case has highlighted the "fortress Europe" policy being applied by most EU governments and with particular determination by Belgium, where refugees can be held in prison-like detention camps for up to eight months.

Christine Flamand a lawyer at the Belgian Committee for Aid to Refugees said: "I was not convinced she had a case for asylum under the law as it stands. But just because someone does not qualify for refugee status as defined by the Geneva Convention does not mean we can forget about their rights and human dignity."

Eurocrats forced to retake exams

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels

AN EXAMINATION taken by up to 30,000 would-be Eurocrats, including several thousand Britons, will have to be repeated because of widespread cheating and confusion.

The decision, which is a severe embarrassment to the European Commission, follows revelations that candidates conferred in examination halls, made calls on mobile phones from lavatories and were leaked questions in advance. Announcing the cancellation of the exam yesterday, the Commission estimated that the cost of staging the open competition sat at 38 centres throughout the continent, including north London and Edinburgh, amounted to 1.2 million euros (about £900,000).

An investigation discovered that papers had been leaked in Italy, and confirmed reports of other problems at test centres including those at Hessel in Brussels and in Rome.

"The same people will have to start all over again," said the Commission's spokeswoman yesterday, "or at least those who aren't disgusted with the whole process."

The Belgian media said applicants in Brussels had visited the lavatory en masse during the examinations, exchanged knowledge and used mobile phones to ring out for answers.

Near-anarchy in Rome was caused by the failure of the examiners to provide enough papers. Candidates, some of whom had seen their test papers, conferred freely while more were photocopied. Candidates in Milan were sent to the wrong address.



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SEP 24 1998

Chinese to curb migrant births

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

FOR THE past decade, China's army of 100 million migrant rural workers has manned the production lines of a boom economy. But now it is being blamed for boosting output in an unwanted sector - illicit babies born outside the strict family planning rules.

Under a regulation announced yesterday, migrant workers must from 1 January 1999 carry a new certificate stating their "marriage and reproductive status", while employers and landlords of transient labourers will be expected to help to enforce birth control measures.

China's controversial family planning regime was introduced at a time when most of the population stayed put in home towns and villages, and was carefully monitored by the local contraceptive cadres. But economic reform and a relaxation of social controls brought the freedom for unemployed peasants to seek casual work in the cities. There they fell outside the strict pregnancy quota system.

In Shanghai, migrant workers make up less than an eighth of the permanent population, but the rate of unplanned births by transients is 12 times that of Shanghai residents. The state family planning minister, Zhang Weigang, this week said uncontrolled births among the floating population had created "great pressure" on the government's birth-control efforts.

For rural families, migration to a city can be an opportunity to outwit regulations which, in most rural areas, limit couples to two, well-spaced children. Li Caiyun, for instance, came to Peking from Sichuan province in February with his wife who was three months pregnant, without permission. Back in his home village there would have been enormous pressure to have an abortion. In Peking, Mr Li worked on a building site until last month when the baby was due and it was too late for the authorities to act.

The new "regulation on family planning administration of the transient population" is designed to crack down on such migrant pregnancies, but implementation may prove difficult. The rule states that the local government where the migrant worker is temporarily living must take responsibility for implementing birth control restrictions. Couples found to have fabricated, sold or bought bogus birth-control certificates will be fined up to 1,000 yuan (\$700), it said.



Kim Beazley with his daughter Rachel (left), wife Susie (second left), and daughters Jessica (centre) and Hannah

Steve Holland/AP

Kim Beazley's big idea - spend, spend, spend

KIM BEAZLEY, Australia's opposition leader, launched his attempt to return the Australian Labor Party to power yesterday with an old-fashioned party formula: spend, spend, spend.

Formally opening his campaign for the election on 3 October at a party rally in Brisbane, Mr Beazley promised to spend billions on schemes that he claimed would bring unemployment down from 8 to 5 per cent by 2004.

Gone was the "vision thing" of New Labor in Australia, an obsession with Asia, multiculturalism and the arts. Mr Beazley instead offered a back-to-basics Labor approach of growth through public spending.

If Mr Beazley does lead Labor to victory, it will be one of the biggest upsets in Australian politics. He has enormous odds to overcome. After a record 13-year rule, Labor lost by a landslide in 1996 to the conservative Liberal-National parties led by John Howard. Labor must win 27 seats to regain a

BY ROBERT MILLIKEN
in Brisbane

majority in the 148-seat House of Representatives.

It must win most of these in the populous eastern states of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, where the election will be decided. In Queensland, Labor holds only two of the state's 27 seats, which is why Mr Beazley is spending much campaign time in the "sunshine state", or the "deep north", rather than back home in Western Australia, where he is fighting to hold his own marginal constituency near Perth.

Then there is the problem of his own public image. Although he has been in politics for 18 years, Australians know little about him. Newspaper cartoons play on one aspect: his obesity. He is jolly and avuncular, but questions have always been asked about whether he has sufficient "killer instinct" to be prime minister. Mr Howard tried to exploit this early in the campaign when he suggested

that Mr Beazley did not have the "ticker" (stamina) to be the country's leader.

Yet there are signs that he could defy the odds. In the last three opinion polls, Labor was ahead of the coalition by enough to win the election. In a television debate between the two leaders on 13 September, Mr Beazley easily outperformed the pedestrian Mr Howard.

Kim Beazley comes from a political dynasty in Perth. His father, Kim senior, an MP for 30 years, was very much Old Labor. He once famously thundered to a party conference: "When I joined the Labor Party, it contained the cream of the working class. But as I look about me now, all I see are the dregs of the middle class."

His son is very much middle-class. New Labor: Kim junior was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford in the 1970s, where he met Tony Blair. They have remained friends. Mr Blair wrote in a forward to a recent biography of Mr Beazley, by Peter Fitz-Simons: "Kim was always the

guy who stood out - in every way! Early on, even at university, he was streets ahead in terms of political savvy and intellect."

When Australian Labor reinvented itself under Bob Hawke and Paul Keating as a party of small government and the free market, Mr Beazley was part of the inner team. He became Minister for Defence, which he once said was the height of his ambitions.

When Mr Blair became Labour leader in Britain, he sought advice from his old Australian mate on the key question of how a social democratic party could ditch its old precepts and become a creature of a market-driven era.

The irony is that Mr Beazley is now doing his best to distance himself from that same revolution. "The free market does many things well," he told yesterday's party rally. "But not all the things that communities need done."

He has talked a lot in this campaign of "eating humble pie" and learning from mis-

takes of the past. In an attempt to win back old Labor supporters, he promised yesterday to spend almost \$48bn (\$3bn) on schools, hospitals, job schemes, roads and railways, especially in declining rural areas where unemployment is high.

About the only policy from the Keating era that Mr Beazley has promised to see through is a republic. He wants an Australian head of state to open the Olympics in Sydney in 2000.

Mr Beazley's support is growing among Australians, but whether it will gather enough momentum in the campaign's final 10 days to smash Mr Howard's record parliamentary majority is another matter.

The Labor leader told his biographer that when he visited Tony Blair at Chequers last year, Mr Blair said to him: "Kim, I cannot believe that I'm Prime Minister of Britain." If he wins in Australia on 3 October, Kim Beazley will have a similar feeling.

Bloody hate that knows no boundary

FRONTLINE
VLASENICA, BOSNIA

LIKE MOST young people of Vlasenica, a small town in eastern Bosnia, Ranka Kraljevic, is unapologetic about being a racist. "It's not that I hate Muslims," she demure 30-year-old Bosnian Serb explains with disarming candour, "it's just that I'll never trust them again."

Ranka has ambitions to work in the forestry industry but there is no work for her in Vlasenica, where unemployment runs at 50 per cent. She is a "Displaced Person" from the town of Olovo, 30km away. About 80 Serb families made the move during Bosnia's vicious ethnic war between Muslims, Serbs and Croats. Olovo is in Muslim-held territory these days. Conversely, Vlasenica used to be a mostly Muslim town as well. Not one of the 8,000 Muslims who lived here until 1992 lives here now. As elsewhere in the Republic Srpska, the Bosnian Serb entity, the mosque in the town centre has become a patch of grass.

One day, at the start of the war, Vlasenica's Serbs heard rumours of a Muslim-on-Serb atrocity in the next door village. "I saw two women and three babies skewered on a spit. They had been cooked over a fire by their neighbours. I couldn't eat for a month after this."

Now, when she wants to go shopping in Banja Luka, the main city in the Republic Srpska, she does not take the direct road through Muslim territory, but goes the long way round via Brcko, a seven-hour trip, instead of four.

Last week she visited the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, for the first time in years, to visit the grave of her boyfriend who was killed in the war. "My father was a soldier: he defended his family. Now, both my name and my accent give me away. I have to be so careful whom I talk to."

Bosnia has just held a general election. Western peace-keepers and organisations that helped to stage the poll hoped Bosnian Serbs such as Ranka would vote for the moderate candidate, Bijana Plavsic, but as far as Ranka and her friends are concerned you can forget it. This is the

kind of town where some people sincerely blame the war on "the Jews". In eastern Bosnia, support remains rock solid for the Serb Democratic Party of Radovan Karadzic, the war-time Bosnian Serb leader. The fact that Karadzic is wanted by the United Nations for war crimes cuts no ice in Vlasenica.

Ranka's greatest fear is that Mrs Plavsic and the moderates will let Vlasenica's expelled Muslims return. "If the Muslims came back here there would be another bloodbath," she says. "And how can I go back to my apartment in Olovo? I wouldn't feel safe."

Attempts to rewrite the town's ethnic past are belied



by the make-up of the town council, 40 per cent of which is still controlled by the Muslims. The councillors mostly live over the country's internal border in Tuzla, and come by bus, sometimes under an armed escort of Western peace-keepers to vote on behalf of a community that no longer exists.

Bosnian Serbs such as Ranka look at the West's defence of Vlasenica's municipal make-up and feel paranoid and cheated in equal measure. "You Westerners think all Serbs are bad but you don't know anything," she says.

Before the election earlier this month, Western organisers optimistically predicted that the Muslims would turn up by the busload to vote in their old municipalities, as they are entitled to, under the 1995 peace deal that ended the war. No one in Vlasenica is surprised that only a handful did so.

JAMES FERGUSON

HALF PRICE SALE

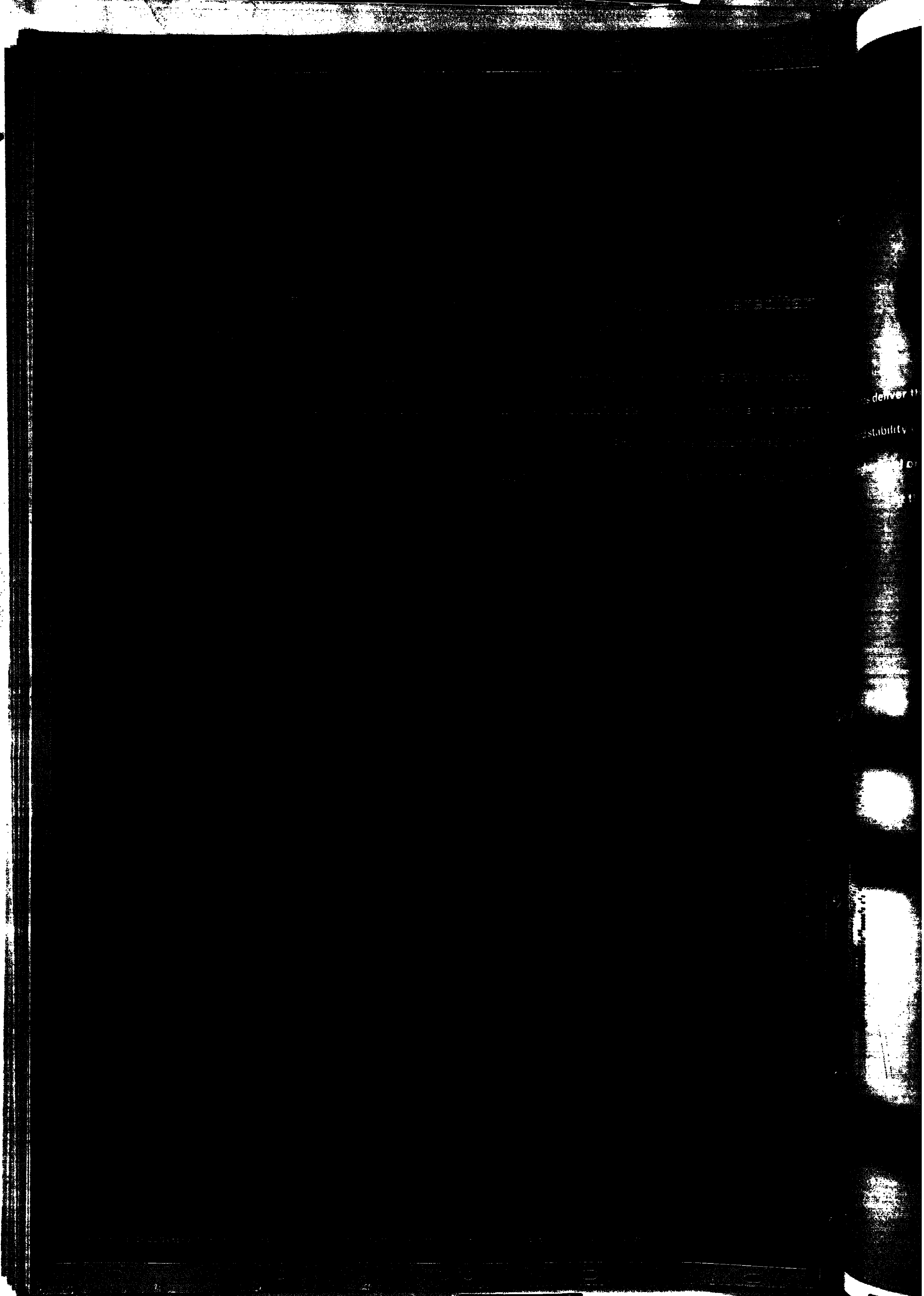
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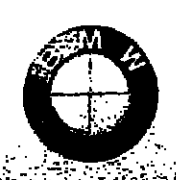
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BMW 3 Series

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

MFI chairman to retire next year

DEREK HUNT, chairman of the struggling MFI Furniture retailer, yesterday announced his intention to retire from the company next year, though MFI said he was not bowing to pressure from institutional investors. "It has for some time been my plan to retire at the age of 60," Mr Hunt told shareholders at MFI's annual meeting, adding that he does not intend to seek re-election next year.

MFI has been criticised by investors for the company's poor performance, which has seen MFI's shares fall from 151p late year to just 37p, down 0.5p yesterday. In a trading statement MFI said UK retail sales in the first 21 weeks of the current financial year were 10 per cent below the same period last year.

Brake Brothers shares plunge

SHARES IN Brake Brothers, the market-leading food distributor, plunged yesterday by 15 per cent as the company said that catering was facing a "temporary slowdown".

Over £48m was wiped from the company's value as its chairman, Frank Brake, said he was "cautious, although not pessimistic" about the full year. Shares dropped from 747.5p to 635.5p, in spite of a 27 per cent rise in first-half pre-tax profits to £13.7m.

Investment, page 23

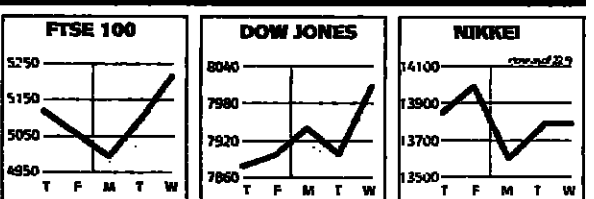
Liffe to go electronic earlier

LIFFE, LONDON'S international financial and futures exchange, has announced plans to bring forward electronic trading. Liffe, which is facing aggressive competition from other European futures exchanges, will start trading futures electronically from 12 April next year, rather than at the end of the second quarter.

Gilt futures will be the first futures contract to be traded on Liffe Connect, the new system, followed by index futures and bond futures. Short-term interest rate futures (STIR) contracts will be traded electronically from early July. As previously announced, electronic trading of individual equity options will start on November 30.

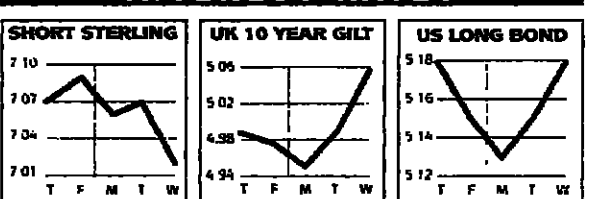
Brian Williamson, Liffe's recently appointed chairman, said: "Liffe has responded to the commercial demands of our customers by accelerating the introduction of Liffe Connect".

STOCK MARKETS



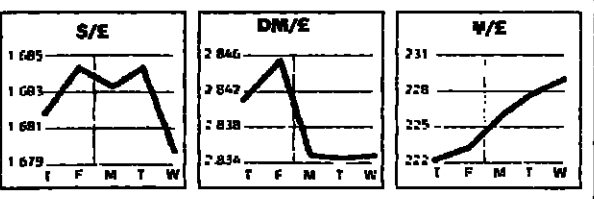
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5214.70	-111.40	-2.18	6183.70	4382.80	3.59
FTSE 250	4564.20	-8.00	-0.18	5270.30	4628.20	4.26
FTSE 350	2481.30	-43.40	-1.78	2969.10	2141.80	3.93
FTSE All Share	2403.97	-39.60	-1.68	2886.52	2106.59	3.91
FTSE SmallCap	2032.60	-3.40	-0.17	2793.80	2035.90	4.16
FTSE Fledgling	1141.30	-1.20	-0.11	1517.10	1140.20	4.48
FTSE AIM	853.70	-6.10	-0.71	1146.90	859.70	1.36
FTSE EBOC 100	898.37	-28.55	-3.44	9367.84	6971.32	1.86
Dow Jones	8011.26	-114.32	-1.45	9367.84	6971.32	1.86
Nikkei	13789.81	-192.51	-1.42	18439.76	13521.13	1.11
Hong Kong	7504.39	-130.88	-1.78	15242.65	6544.79	5.44
Dax	4699.39	-124.24	-2.72	6217.83	3487.24	3.37

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	30 year
UK	7.43	0.14	7.06	-0.44	5.95	-0.16	4.71	-1.85	-
US	5.50	-0.22	5.25	-0.71	4.74	-1.18	3.18	-	-
Japan	0.42	-0.16	0.46	-0.18	0.92	-1.24	1.45	-1.37	-
Germany	3.48	0.17	3.59	-0.18	3.97	-1.57	4.89	-1.29	-

CURRENCIES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	30 year
US	1.6795	-0.44c	1.6115	0.5954	+0.16c	0.6205	-	-	-
DM	2.8342	-0.09p	2.8951	1.6873	+0.43p	1.7964	-	-	-
Yen	229.31	+11.53	196.88	136.50	+11.33	122.03	-	-	-
£ index	102.80	0.00	101.40	109.90	0.00	106.00	-	-	-

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	30 year
Brent Oil (\$)	14.61	0.04	18.73	115.40	2.60	112.48	Sept.	-	-
Gold (\$)	289.35	1.50	321.95	163.70	3.30	159.47	Sept.	-	-
Silver (\$)	4.88	-0.01	4.68	Base Rates	7.50	7.00	-	-	-

TOURIST RATES

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	30 year
Australia (\$)	2.8083	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Austria (schillings)	19.28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belgium (francs)	56.67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada (\$)	2.5067	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8099	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denmark (krone)	10.51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Finland (markka)	8.4021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
France (francs)	9.1976	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Germany (marks)	2.7509	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greece (drachma)	471.46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hong Kong (\$)	12.63	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ireland (pounds)	1.0955	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
India (rupees)	65.72	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Israel (shekels)	5.9590	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Italy (lira)	2724	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Japan (yen)	223.94	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.1250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malta (lira)	0.6144	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Water shares hit by £8.5bn clean-up threat

SHARES IN water companies fell sharply yesterday after the Government warned that it expected them to invest £8.5bn on environmental clean-up programmes while still making "substantial" cuts in the average water bill.

Michael Meacher, the environment minister, suggested there was scope for a one-off cut in water charges of 10 per cent when the new five-year pricing formula is introduced from 2000.

Shares across the sector fell by more than 3 per cent as the City took fright that the twin squeeze of higher environmental costs and lower prices might be worse than feared. Anglian closed 25p down at 883p, while Severn Trent ended 41p lower at 1063p and Hyder, owner of Welsh Water, lost 41p to 938.5p.

Robert Miller-Bakewell, water analyst for Merrill Lynch Global Securities, said: "This is an overdue reminder that there is a regulatory review in the background and that water is not just a steady utility stock that you can turn to when the market is turbulent."

The £8.5bn figure is £4bn more than the water industry has already budgeted to spend between 2000 and 2005 improving drinking water and bathing water standards and cleaning up rivers and coastal sewage discharges.

Another analyst said the Government was trying to face both ways, by emphasising its green agenda at the same time as demanding big price reductions. He added that although the £8.5bn figure was large, a lot would depend on how it was spread among the

water companies and how much the water regulator, Ian Byatt, allowed to be passed on to customers.

Andrew Stone of Daiwa Europe said: "You are seeing the political context which is always likely to be pro-consumer. Now we have to convert the political into the economic and that is up to Ofwat [the water regulator]."

Mr Byatt will unveil his initial proposals on water bills next month when he publishes "Prospects for Prices".

However, final price limits for each water company will not be set until November next year. The new price controls take effect from April 2000.

Water charges have risen by 36 per cent in real terms since the industry was privatised in 1989. The average bill now stands at £345.



Half-year profits at French Connection, led by Stephen Marks (above), rose to £3.5m

French Connection profits from ads

FRENCH CONNECTION, the fashion chain led by Stephen Marks, is continuing to enjoy a boost from its controversial f.c.u.k advertising campaign,

writes Nigel Cope. The campaign has helped the company sell 100,000 T-shirts and pushed half-year profits 16 per cent higher to £3.5m. Like-

for-like sales were 11.2 per cent higher than the same period last year.

The group plans to open three new French Connection stores and one new Nicole Farhi outlet in the second half.

The shares were unchanged at 310p.

IMF chief admits errors in Asian and Russian crises

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund yesterday admitted its policies exacerbated the Asian and Russian financial crises.

Michel Camdessus, IMF managing director, said: "Yes, we made errors. For instance, we did not take notice of information on short-term capital transactions soon enough."

He added: "Our member states simply did not have a genuine machinery of information before the crisis. We should have fought earlier for a supervision of the financial sector."

Mr Camdessus' comments came as the World Bank - whose policies have also come under fire - admitted there

was a need for internal change.

Speaking at the launch of the Bank's annual report, a Bank representative said officials had for some time been aware of the need for reform, and had already started on a series of internal shake-ups. Proposals for overhauling the Bank and the IMF are expected to be discussed at length at the forthcoming annual meetings of the two institutions.

In its annual report, the Bank - which last year made record loan commitments of more than \$20bn - stressed the human cost of the crisis.

European equity markets closed higher yesterday, on

hopes of an early easing in US interest rates. Analysts speculated that a cut could come as soon as next Tuesday, when the Federal Reserve will meet for its regular rate-setting meeting.

The FTSE 100 rose for the second day, closing up 111.4 points at 5214.7. At lunchtime in New York, the Dow Jones was up 116.12 points at 8013.32.

World stock markets tumbled last week after Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, appeared to rule out a co-ordinated cut in global interest rates.

However, there are still hopes of a cut in US rates and markets were waiting anxiously for hints of Mr Greenspan's next move as he spoke last

night to the US Congress about the turmoil in world markets.

Nick Stamenkovic, chief European economist at Bank Austria Credit Anstalt Futures, said: "Tuesday's meeting will be a close call. Greenspan is an internationalist, and could persuade other FOMC [the committee that determines US rates] members to cut."

Oil prices were also spurred yesterday on talk of an emergency summit of oil industry leaders in Italy next week. November Brent crude hit an intra-day high of \$14.73, but fell back after oil companies played down the talk, saying the forthcoming meeting was an "unexceptional" exchange of industry views.

Biotech rejects calls to halt legal action

THE BOARD of British Biotech, the troubled drug development group, yesterday rejected shareholders' calls to drop the legal action against Dr Andrew Miller, the whistleblower sacked in April.

The demands came as it emerged that Dr Keith McCullagh, Dr Miller's main rival who yesterday stepped down as chief executive, received a payoff of £672,000.

At a shareholders' meeting marked by strict security measures to segregate the media

pack from participants, investors gave the board a 40-minute grilling over the action against Dr Miller, the former head of clinical research who was dismissed after voicing doubts over two of the company's star drugs to one institution.

The bitter battle between Dr Miller, who lifted the secrecy on trials of the company's pancreatic cancer drug Zalcitabine and the anti-cancer treatment Marina-

stat, and Dr McCullagh, caused a collapse in British Biotech's share price and two investigations by US and UK stock market regulators. The company is suing Dr Miller in the High Court for breach of contract.

John Williams, one shareholder asked the board: "In view of the bad PR, in view of the high costs, can you tell me exactly what you hope to gain from suing Dr Miller?"

Another investor said: "The share price is a disaster. The litigation with Dr Miller is some-

thing we should not be bothered with. It is a small blip. How much would it cost to settle?"

The chairman, John Raisman, replied: "There are very strong grounds for the actions and possibly substantial damages to be recovered."

However, Mr Raisman, who is set to step down at the end of the month, held out the possibility that the company could settle the case at a later stage. He added: "It will clearly have to be on realistic terms. I don't think any realistic terms have

been proposed."

Dr Miller is understood to have asked for around £90,000 to settle the case. The company said that Dr McCullagh's leaving package will include one year's salary, worth £430,000, plus a one-off payment of £242,000 to his pension fund.

He will be replaced by Elliott Goldstein, a former executive at SmithKline Beecham. Christopher Hampson, chairman of building materials group RMC, will take over as chairman.



McCullagh: Former chief executive gets £672,000

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

TALK OF lower interest rates as well as renewed takeover speculation lifted Footsie 111.4 points to 5214.7 in brisk trading. But supporting shares had another poor session with the mid cap and small cap indices giving ground.

GRE, the insurance group, and the publisher Reed International rose again on bid hopes, and Granada jumped 5p to 777p following its investment presentation in Manchester. But waters slipped lower following the Government's warning.

Derek Pain, page 23

NEW YORK

US stocks were rallying strongly at midday as investors took some relief from some positive earnings news and hopes that Federal Reserve Alan Greenspan would not rule out an interest rate cut.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 107 points or 1.35 per cent to 8004, its third foray above the 8,000 level since 31 August, when a massive sell-off shook global markets and sent the Dow plunging 512 points. The wave of buying swept up both large blue chips and smaller

JAKARTA

THE JAKARTA stock index ended slightly higher up 1.37 points at 282.55, as talk of state help boosted telecom shares. The Indonesian rupiah was little changed at 11,000 to the US dollar amid light trading, as concern about capital controls eased.

Indonesia's creditors agreed yesterday in Paris to reschedule \$4.2bn in government debt due in the next two years, easing the debt burden. The rupiah had plunged 51 per cent this year, its second year as the world's worst performing currency.

HONG KONG

THE HANG SENG index rose 139.88, or 1.8 per cent, to 7,504.39, as China cut US dollar deposit rates for the second time in three months, signalling that it may soon lower interest rates to boost flagging economic growth, rather than devalue the yuan.

The speculation gained credence from a report in an official Hong Kong publication that the mainland needs a "big cut" in official rates to boost growth. Chinese state-owned companies listed in Hong Kong rose 4.1 per cent as a group.

MILAN

SHARE PRICES closed higher, as gains on other markets overshadowed concern about the political situation in Italy. The Mibtel closed up 279 points at 19,193, while the Mib30 rose 540 to 28,544.

The Communist Refoundation party, whose votes ensure Prime Minister Romano Prodi a lower house majority, is undecided over whether to back the 1999 budget and could pull its support altogether, which could force Mr Prodi to resign. The budget will be presented for cabinet approval tomorrow.

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MAIF

IMF braced for further Russian blow

THE INTERNATIONAL financial community is bracing itself for another fierce blow from Russia - the likelihood that it will default on, at best, restructure some \$200bn of foreign currency debt.

Analysts predict that Moscow will be unable to find \$19.2bn due next year, threatening to drive Russia's financial crisis to new depths and deepen its isolation.

"The position at present looks like another default or restructuring," said a western diplomatic source. "They have got themselves into a very, very deep hole."

Although Russia has promised to honour its foreign debts, its credibility has been badly undermined by its decision in August to freeze \$40bn of rouble-denominated domestic debt, gridlocking the banking system and leaving foreign investors high and dry.

In more normal circumstances, Russia could borrow enough funds to roll over \$19bn of interest and principle payments due next year; it is not an exceptionally large sum for a large country.

But a severe loss of international confidence, com-

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

pounded by its steepening economic decline, has diminished its chances of raising the money.

Neither the International Monetary Fund nor the World Bank is likely to look favourably on the idea of bailing out Moscow again, particularly given the return to power of Gorbachev-era free-market sceptics.

Michel Camdessus, the International Monetary Fund's managing director, said yesterday that the fund - which has a team in Moscow discussing the future of its now discredited \$25bn rescue package - was ready to support Russia as long as Moscow presented a "credible reform plan".

But there are few signs that Russia can satisfy that criteria.

"The choice is between defaulting and rescheduling," Thierry Mallerat, an economist with Russia's Alfa Capital told the Moscow Times newspaper. "Russia is totally broke and I don't see how the situation could improve."

Another default would repeat an unfortunate pattern that

stretches back to the 1917 revolution, when the Bolsheviks refused to honour billions of dollars-worth of tsarist-era bonds.

Western commercial banks have yet to forgive Russia for restructuring \$25bn of Soviet-era debt to the London Club.

The archpriest of Russia's market economics, Anatoly Chubais, believes that Russia had no choice but to turn to the IMF to meet its foreign debts, even this year.

An agreement with the IMF would be difficult. But without one, Moscow would resort to using currency reserves, spawning an even more intense attack on the rouble.



Alun Cathcart (right), chairman and chief executive of Avis Europe, the car rental group, and David Maloney, group finance director. Avis is buying 4,000 of the two-seater Swatchmobile cars, a joint venture between Mercedes-Benz and the watchmaker Swatch. Eye Catchers Press.

Software boost for East Coast line

RAIL PASSENGERS on the East Coast Mainline should suffer fewer delays in the future, following a multi-million pound investment in state-of-the-art software to improve signalling, writes Michael Harrison.

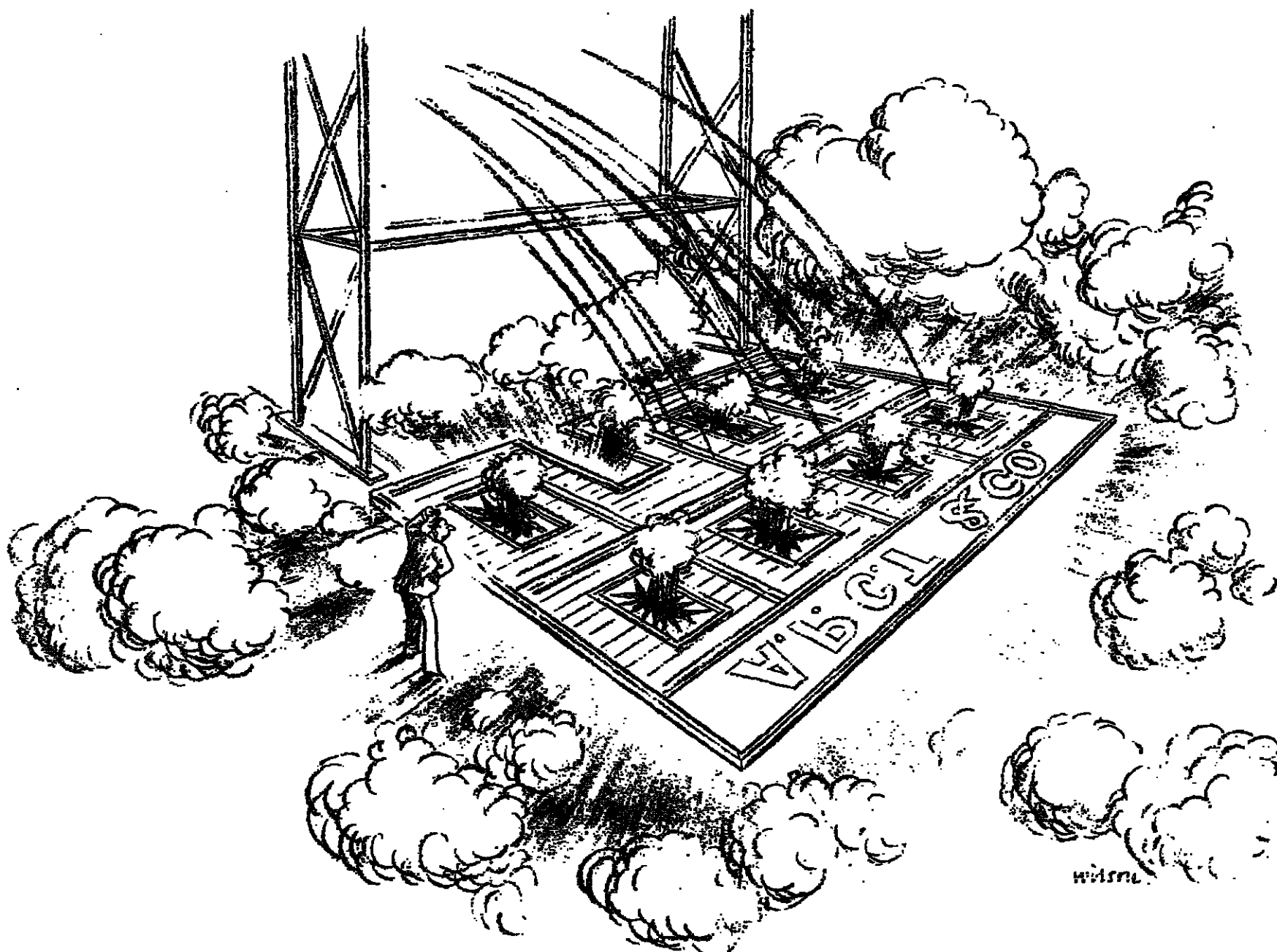
AEA Technology has been awarded a contract by the infrastructure maintenance company Jarvis Rail to install the software at three control centres along the line.

The equipment improves the routing and tracking of trains, enabling controllers to give priority to high-speed passenger trains rather than slower freight trains.

The software will be installed over the next three months at three electronic control centres in York and on Tyneside.

As well as reducing train delays, the equipment should also save Railtrack money since it is liable to pay penalties for hold-ups caused by problems with the rail infrastructure.

Our competitors promise to save money on BT's business calls. Frankly, there isn't much behind them.



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how much you can save, and still have the promise of BT behind you.



IN BRIEF

Barratt attacks government over economic and planning policies

BARRATT, BRITAIN'S second largest housebuilder, yesterday became the latest construction group to attack the government's economic and planning policies. Frank Eaton, the chairman, said the government's management of the economy was "seriously undermining consumer confidence". He added that authorities failed to implement planning policies to meet the UK's housing needs. Barratt reported a 33 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profit to a record £93.3m.

Derivative risks in the open

UK COMPANIES are for the first time having to disclose a range of information about the risks from derivatives and other financial instruments, as a result of today's publication of a new accounting standard. The Accounting Standards Board says Financial Reporting Standard 13 is necessary because derivatives often do not appear in accounts, yet can quickly give rise to assets or, more seriously, liabilities.

Dawson suffers bigger loss

LOSSES AT Dawson International deepened to £23.6m in the six months to 4 July from a £4.2m loss the year earlier, the textile company revealed yesterday. The maker of Pringle clothing blamed the loss on Asia's economic crisis and the strong pound. Chairman Derek Finlay said problems had been caused by the strength of sterling, the full impact of the Asian economic crisis and fashion trends away from heavy woollen yarns and knitwear.

Dawson reduced its workforce by 24 per cent, which represents an £8m reduction in operating costs for the full financial year. The shares closed off 0.5p at 76.5p, down from a 12-month peak of 76.5p.

Summer slowdown for brewer

THE REGIONAL brewer and pub operator Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries yesterday blamed "testing market conditions" for a slowdown in sales in the 47 weeks to 22 August, down from a 4.7 per cent increase in the first half of the year to 2.5 per cent. In a trading update ahead of its annual results, finance director Ralph Findlay said: "As far as brewers are concerned, summer did not happen." The shares gained 19p to 396p.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGE

OTHER SP

SPORT

Cricket: As a select few get ready for an Ashes tour, the game's rank and file must look elsewhere to make ends meet

Players prepare for the big freeze

THE COMING of misty autumn evenings signals, among other things, the end of another English cricket season, a time of sadness and reflection for the game's devotees and the final surrender of the sports pages to the great god, football.

For players bound for foreign shores with the England Test team and the other representative teams, the bringing down of one curtain merely beckons the raising of another. For the vast majority peddling their talents in the county game, however, the prospect looms of six months in

which their principal employer deletes them from the payroll.

Unlike the footballers with whom, for a couple of months at least, they are afforded equal status by the image makers – and breakers – of the national press, cricketers are paid only when they work. And, more to the point, they are paid at rates for a season that some of their better-heeled footballing brothers would expect to apply by the week.

A Test player might earn £40,000 – perhaps even more – for his six months, but that category rep-

resents a tiny proportion of the workforce. At the other end of the scale a junior professional might pick up as little as £7,000-£8,000. The average senior professional collects around £25,000, although this is not necessarily a firm rule: the minimum for a second-year capped player – one who has served an unspecified "apprenticeship" and proved his worth – is much lower, at £20,800.

Hence the need for most bread-and-butter county players, without whom there would be no bedrock to underpin Test cricket, to find gain-

BY JON CULLEY

ful employment during the winter. Yet the current situation is considered to be substantially better than that which existed only a few years ago.

"Things have improved," Nottinghamshire's 1998 beneficiary, the 35-year-old Kevin Evans, said. "When the television deal with Sky

was negotiated, the Professional Cricketers' Association won a share of the fee for the players, which gave us a pay rise of about £3,000.

"Minimum levels were established, meaning a capped player can at least be sure of what some people would regard as a decent income. Above that it is down to the individual and what he can negotiate for himself. And it depends on where you play because some counties pay better than others."

What constitutes a "decent" income varies, of course, from one in-

dividual to another, depending on his circumstances. "We are better paid," Evans' team-mate, Paul Johnson, said. "But at the same time your overheads have risen; you might have moved house and taken on a bigger mortgage. So you need to earn something in the winter to pay the bills."

Johnson has driven lorries and even killed cattle in an abattoir during his 18 years at Trent Bridge. But the range of employment possibilities has shrunk.

"In the past, a committee member might have found a player a job

in his company but these days businesses are less able to do such things," Nottinghamshire's chief executive, Mark Arthur, said.

"At Trent Bridge we employ seven or eight players on our cricket in the community scheme and we use contacts overseas – we have established links with New Zealand, for example – to help players find clubs abroad."

"We cannot afford to go Lancashire's way and put people on 12-month contracts but we do our best to help and I'm happy to say none of our staff will need to draw the dole."

A WINTER'S TALE: HOW THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE XI WHO CLOSED THE SEASON AGAINST GLOUCESTERSHIRE LAST WEEK WILL SPEND THE COMING MONTHS



CHRIS TOLLEY
(ALL-ROUNDER)

Aged 30; born Kidderminster; Nottingham since 1996.

"I HAVE a degree in sports science and while I was with Worcestershire I spent six winters teaching, five of them at Chase High School in Malvern, but I don't have the contacts around Nottingham. I've always been interested in fitness and rehabilitation. Last winter I trained as a sports massage therapist and I'm hoping to work in the rehab unit currently being developed in our new grandstand complex. I may go back to teaching at some stage but I would always want to do something that makes use of the degree. This winter I will be doing some coaching for the club, too. On top of that I'm also also getting married."



NOEL GIE
(BATSMAN)

Aged 21; born Pretoria, South Africa; Nottingham since school, debut 1995.

"IN PAST winters I have been away, once on an England Under-19 tour and a couple of times to South Africa, but this winter I plan to do a lot of studying. I'm doing a four-year course in business studies which will hopefully lead to a BA and I need to catch up on what I have missed since last April, which will involve going to lectures at Nottingham University and working at home. I'm hoping to gain some practical experience working in sales and marketing for a computer firm in Birmingham. A cricket career can last a season or 15 years and it is important to be prepared for another life. Ideally I would play for six months a year and work in business for the other six."



ANDY ORAM
(PACE BOWLER)

Aged 23; born Northampton; Nottingham since 1997.

"I'M GOING to play Australian grade cricket for Perth in Western Australia from October until March. The first match is on 4 October and I expect to be back for pre-season training here at the beginning of March. I want to come back physically and mentally stronger, ready for next season. A lot of players do go abroad in the winter. I was lucky enough to be approached but others find their own trips and make contacts when they get there. The club is providing me with a car and accommodation. When I was at Northamptonshire I worked in the paper industry on the sales and marketing side. I also have an interest in a restaurant in Northampton."



MATT WHILEY
(PACE BOWLER)

Aged 18; born Nottingham; Nottingham from school, debut in this match (0 and 0 not out; 1 for 66 and 0 for 58).

"LAST WINTER I played club cricket in New Zealand for six months after being recommended by the county. This winter I'm going to New Zealand again with the England Under-19 squad, which came as a surprise seeing as I've only now broken into the first team. The tour does not begin until January but there are three squad sessions to attend and nets here. Until now I've been relying on some sponsorship to help with living expenses, as well as working for my dad in his plumbing and heating business. I always set my sights on being a cricketer. I've never thought about what I will do if it does not work out."



CHRIS READ
(WICKETKEEPER)

Aged 20; born Paignton; Nottingham since 1997.

"I WENT on the England A tour to Kenya and Sri Lanka last winter and I've been selected again for Zimbabwe and South Africa, starting in January. Before then we have a fairly extensive training schedule, with fitness sessions and a week in the Lake District on a team bonding programme. I was at university for a year when I left school but I dropped out when I decided I'd be better off playing cricket. I don't know what I'll do in future years. I might have gone into teaching if I had not played cricket but everything has happened so fast that cricket is all I think about, really. Hopefully, I've got a few years ahead of me in the game."



GRAEME ARCHER
(BATSMAN)

Aged 27; born Carlisle; Nottingham since 1992.

"I'LL BE working for the county on the coaching scheme for schools that we operate. I've been to New Zealand four times in past winters and I just want to rest this time. The coaching involves eight to 10 year olds, so it is not too taxing. I really enjoy doing it. I was assistant to the sports master at Durham School the year before I came on the staff. It is good fun working with the kids and you rarely have any trouble from them. The majority of cricketers find things to do off-season through contacts made in the game. Otherwise it is a case of down to the Job Centre. I'm not married and it is a lot harder for cricketers with families to support."



USMAN AFZAAL
(OPENING BATSMAN)

Aged 21; born Rawalpindi, Pakistan; Nottingham from school, debut 1995.

"MY PLANS for the coming winter involve buckling down to some serious fitness training as well as working on my batting with the coach and the captain. I have played for England at Under-15, Under-17 and Under-19 levels and my aim for next year is to get selected for the England A tour. I'm also going to be working on the county's coaching scheme, and with that and my salary from playing I shall not need to get a job. Although I was born in Pakistan, the family moved over here when I was six or seven. They are very supportive and believe in me, and that is a great boost."



PAUL JOHNSON
(BATSMAN)

Aged 33; born Newark; Nottingham from school, debut 1992.

"I'VE BEEN with the county for 18 years and it used to be a financial necessity to find some work for the close season. I've done a variety of things, including jobs in sports shops and record shops and driving a lorry. Once I worked in a butcher's where we had a small abattoir and killed our own beasts. I've been abroad a few times in the past but that's really for the younger man. When you have a family your responsibilities are at home. In my case that is especially important because I have a daughter with Down's Syndrome. I've been appointed cricket development officer for Lincolnshire, which will keep me occupied but let me spend time at home too."



JASON GALLIAN
(BATSMAN AND CAPTAIN)

Aged 27; born Manly, Australia; Nottingham since 1998.

"THIS IS going to be a busy winter. We have just parted company with our cricket manager and as captain, I'll be involved in planning the structure of the club for next season and will have an input in any appointments made. I'm also going to do some more work with the marketing department here. I did that last winter, before I had started playing for the county, and found it really useful in getting to know people and how things work around the place. In addition, I'm scheduled to go on a pro-am tour to Barbados and I'd also like to take time out to see my mum and sister in Australia."



PAUL FRANKS
(PACE BOWLER)

Aged 19; born Sutton-in-Ashfield; Nottingham from school, debut 1996.

"I WENT to South Africa on my second England Under-19 tour last winter and played for the Under-19 side again this summer. I had hopes of going on tour again this winter but did not make it, although I understand I was on the shortlist. I had a good summer, although I only played in 12 matches; I've gained a lot of experience this year. I'm going to be involved with the county's schools coaching scheme, which will take me from November through to pre-season. I'm interested in the coaching and team management side of the game. The idea of putting a county team together appeals to me as something I'd like to do in the future."



MATTHEW DOWNMAN
(BATSMAN)

Aged 24; born Grantham; Nottingham since 1993.

"I HAVE a slight stress fracture in the left leg that needs a period of rest, so I will not be going abroad. Last winter I was in New Zealand and I've also had a winter in Australia. I'm buying a house, so that will keep me busy in any case. The county have given me some work on their coaching scheme but I am at that age when you need to start looking to broaden your horizons. For a six-month contract the money is good but you need something for the rest of the year. I might look into studying for a business management qualification. The marketing of cricket clubs is a developing area."

Photographs by Peter Jay

THE ABSENT INJURED

MARK BOWEN
Seam bowler; aged 30; born Redcar; Nottingham since 1996.

A BSc honours graduate in chemical engineering, Bowen divides his year between cricket and working for British Nuclear Fuels at Sellafield, where he had established a career before Nottinghamshire offered him a cricket contract. "They know they are getting someone trained and reliable so they are happy for me to work just for the winter," he said.

TIM ROBINSON
Batsman; aged 40; born Sutton-in-Ashfield; Nottingham since 1978.

SEVEN YEARS ago, the former England batsman opened his first sports goods shop half a mile from the Trent Bridge ground and has since expanded to three outlets in the Nottingham area. "I had three winters touring with England and others in South Africa, but you cannot go on playing cricket for ever. Setting up the business was something I did with an eye to the future."

KEVIN EVANS
Pace bowler; aged 35;

born Calverton; Nottingham since 1984. GAVE UP a career with NatWest bank to play cricket. Since then has driven vans for Marks & Spencer and spent four winters working on projects for the sausage and pie manufacturer Pork Farms, among other jobs. "I'm negotiating a new contract and tying up the loose ends of my benefit year so I will not be looking for employment this winter, unless anything comes up that fits in."

RICHARD BATES
Off-spin bowler; aged 26;

born Stamford; Nottingham since 1993. HAS PLAYED abroad but usually signs up for the county's community coaching scheme, which runs through the winter and involves visiting two or three schools each day. "It provides an income to get by on during the close season and lets you have time to practise and train which you would not get if you were in a nine-to-five job outside cricket."

Golf: Former world No 1 cites lack of communication as reason for split from coach who guided him to six majors



David Leadbetter (left) issues the instructions to his star pupil, Nick Faldo, during a rainy session on the practice ground at the Open at Birkdale earlier this year

Merit title quest heats up

BY PHIL CASEY
in Cologne

EUROPE'S TOP three golfers resume battle at the Linde German Masters today - with the Order of Merit title up for grabs. Lee Westwood, Darren Clarke and the five-times winner, Colin Montgomerie, are separated by just £22,000 at the top of the standings with only three events left.

But, with the winner at Gut Larchenholz near Cologne, collecting £166,650, a victory for any of the trio would make them the hot favourite to top the standings and collect the Vardon Trophy that has been in Montgomerie's possession since 1993.

The 35-year-old Scot has the most impressive recent record, with victory in the One2One British Masters plus 12th and 11th-place finishes in his last three events.

Montgomerie's run is all the more authoritative as it comes after missing the cut for a second successive week at the BMW International in Munich, the first time he has suffered such an ignominy since 1991. Since then he has gone back to working with his old coach, Bill Ferguson, and has begun to cure a destructive hook that had developed, and rediscover his highly consistent fade.

Clarke enjoyed a week off from competition last week and had the luxury of seeing his nearest competitors fail to make significant ground. Westwood, the Order of Merit leader, who has already earned £515,551 this season, finished with a 79 at the Lancôme Trophy last week to find himself joint last with Seve Ballesteros. Montgomerie fared better to finish 11th but is still third behind the Ulsterman, with just three events left which count towards the final standings.

This week also represents Justin Rose's last chance to earn enough money to avoid the trials and tribulations of the European Tour qualifying school.

Rose has yet to make the cut in any of his tournaments since turning professional after his extraordinary fourth-place finish in the Open at Royal Birkdale. The 18-year-old, who last week battled through pre-qualifying, needs to win around £50,000 to earn his card for next season - and that means a top-four finish in Cologne.

The USPGA champion, Vijay Singh, is also in a high-quality field here, along with the defending champion, Bernhard Langer, and Europe's Ryder Cup captain, Mark James.

Faldo's farewell to guru's guru

BY ANDY FARRELL

VISITING THE Faldo Golf Institute at the Marriott Grande Vista hotel in Orlando in March, it was hard to believe Nick Faldo was across the city at Lake Nona after missing the cut at the Bay Hill Invitational. As you would expect from something named after the six-times major champion, there was a place where a golfer could really get to grips with practising the game. No details were overlooked.

A pitching area allows you to play to flags at different yardages to learn distance control but without having to move your stance. On the 27-hole putting course, there are holes specifically designed to teach lag-putting. On the nine-hole learning course, a plaque on each tee describes what should be accomplished on the hole.

"We hope that everyone who comes here," explained Jim Richardson, the general manager of the Faldo Institute, "will understand and appreciate and share Nick's love of the game and his drive."

It was Faldo's drive and his love of winning the game's "little tin cups" that drove him to form a formidable alliance with

David Leadbetter in 1986. Now, Faldo has sought to rekindle his career with the help of Chip Koehlke, the head professional at his own institute.

Faldo went to spend an hour there, stayed for four days and also worked with Koehlke at the Lancôme Trophy last week in Paris where a last-round 65 gave the 41-year-old his best finish of the season, sixth place.

Yesterday, preparing for today's German Masters where he will continue trying to gather enough Ryder Cup points to play for a 12th time next September, Faldo said a lack of communication was the reason for his split from the man who turned a successful European golfer into the greatest player on the world stage in the late '80s and early '90s.

"Things have not been working out with David even though I've been busting my bums for a few months," Faldo said. "David wasn't at the USPGA in Seattle, much to my surprise, and I haven't spoken to him for weeks. He's been off doing his own thing."

Such a situation would have

been unthinkable when the only thing on Faldo's mind was his constant "fine-tuning with Lead". Even though Faldo lives at the complex where Leadbetter has had his golf academy for the past 10 years, the British-born teacher who grew up in Zimbabwe only received word of his star pupil's departure in a letter he picked up after returning home from a trip to the Far East at the weekend.

"It wasn't very classy," said

Leadbetter, whose father died during the summer. "You put a lot of time and effort with someone like Nick and it is a bit upsetting to get a cursory note to finish it all. We had a good relationship off the field as far as these things go. He hasn't always endeared himself to me from a personal standpoint but he has been a great pupil. I still have the utmost respect for him."

Leadbetter spent most of 1985 and '86 rebuilding Faldo's elegant swing, but one that

was suspect under pressure. In its place, they grooved an action which saw off all challengers in winning three Opens and three US Masters titles. At Muirfield in '87, Faldo parred every hole in the final round, while at Augusta 11 years later, he came from six behind to beat Greg Norman by five.

"He has been good for me and I was good for him," Leadbetter said. Leadbetter, who was already working with Nick Price - whose record of three

major wins was bettered only by Faldo in the last decade - when his fame grew alongside that of Faldo's. Plenty of other players have since sought out the tall man in the Panama hat on the practice ground.

Some found that the attention they received in comparison with his star client was minimal, others that the technical methods used on Faldo were not right for them. Leadbetter denies that he has just one method of teaching. "I am technical with some people, not with others," he said.

Leadbetter, in demand for books, videos and magazine articles, became a valuable commodity to the International Management Group, alongside Faldo. Both have now left, Faldo setting up on his own with his manager of 20 years, John Simpson. One of their first projects was to set up the Golf Institute. "That's why, in the last year, you didn't hear my name associated with his when he spoke," Leadbetter said.

The guru's guru has spent this season, Faldo's worst for over a decade, preaching patience. The long game was close to its best if the putting

could be sorted out. Observation suggested the former was not as good and the latter not as bad as either thought.

But what was obvious was that the teacher could no longer spark his pupil into action. The relationship was stale. "Sometimes you need a [new] outlook," Leadbetter admitted. Enter Koehlke, an American in his mid-thirties. "I had to do something," Faldo said. "Chip is a disciple of my methods, has read my books and teaches my methods. He's read Hogan, the lot. It was silly that I should be going elsewhere when I had my own tried-and-tested system all set up for me."

"Chip showed a lot of bottle because he told me that in some cases I would have to do just the opposite of what I've done for years if I wanted to improve. He's thrown in his two-pennyworth and me mine. Slowly, he's unravelled the knots and the last round of the Lancôme was good feedback."

Leadbetter said the split was "a bit of a shock". But he added: "I wish him well for the future. At least our relationship lasted longer than either of Nick's two marriages."

DAVID LEADBETTER: HIS PUPILS AND RIVALS

THE CLIENTS

Once a struggling tour player himself, Leadbetter first started to help the South African Denis Watson and then took on Nick Price after the Zimbabwean lost the 1982 Open to Tom Watson at Troon. In contrast to Faldo, who would spend hours with Leadbetter, Price said 10 minutes with the teacher gave him enough to work on for three months. Greg Norman, Bernhard Langer and Seve Ballesteros have all worked with Leadbetter - the Spaniard doing so in 1991. His best season to date since he last won a major in 1988.

It was to Lake Nona, the Leadbetter headquarters, that Korean Se Ri Pak, the US Women's Open champion, went when she first arrived in America, while Justin Rose spent

a week there earlier this year. Hackers can get the same treatment for £3,000 for a weekend's tuition.

THE RIVALS

Butch Harmon, one of four golfing sons of the former Masters champion Claude Harmon, is the next most visible coach after Leadbetter. Harmon revived Greg Norman's career in the early 1990s, helping the Australian win the Open at Sandwich in 1993, but Norman left around the time Tiger Woods, who sought Harmon's advice as an amateur, turned pro. While Tiger is on the course, Harmon can often be found on Sky's American golf coverage.

Bill Ferguson was the club pro who taught Colin Montgomerie the game and only came out on tour

to fine-tune the Scot's action. Before long, others such as Ian Woosnam and Paul Broadhurst found the Yorkshireman's help valuable.

Montgomerie split from Ferguson, without giving reasons at the time but hoping to improve his world ranking at the end of 1996, and spent the following season with Denis Pugh, a former Leadbetter aide who seems to specialise in coaching a number of Australians. New Zealanders, Germans and Danes. But last month, suffering the worst slump of his career, Montgomerie returned to Ferguson. Lindrick's Peter Cowen is now the guru of choice for Andrew Cusack's management stable, which includes Lee Westwood, Darren Clarke and Stuart Cagle. Less seen these days, Bob Torrance was the man behind the rise of his son Sam.

Hick, Caddick and Tufnell on call

CRICKET

BY JOHN NISBET

GRAEME HICK, the only batsman still playing first-class cricket to have scored 100 centuries, has been put on standby for England's Ashes tour of Australia later this year.

Hick was left out of the party announced earlier this month, but the England selectors said yesterday that he would be a non-travelling reserve, along with the pace bowler Andy Caddick and the left-arm spinner Phil Tufnell.

"The three players we have placed on stand-by are proven Test cricketers who are very much part of our current plans," the chairman of selectors, David Graveney, said.

All three will be expected to stay fit and be ready to fly to Australia at short notice. England officials also said that Gra-

ham Thorpe and Alex Tudor had passed fitness tests on back and foot injuries respectively, and would leave for Australia with the rest of the England party on 21 October.

Lancashire's John Crawley won the vote for the seventh batting place ahead of Hick, although the Worcestershire man was selected for next month's Wills International Cup one-day tournament in Bangladesh.

The Somerset bowler Caddick was the leading English wicket-taker this summer with 105 victims, but missed out to Kent's Dean Headley when the squad to tour Australia was announced. The Middlesex spinner Tufnell failed to win a place in any of the England squads, as the Essex veteran Peter Such gained a surprise call-up for the trip to Australia.

Lord MacLaurin, the chairman of the English cricket board, believes there must be

an injection of £300m into the game to produce a successful national side.

Alec Stewart's England team gave the sport a much-needed boost with the first series win on home soil for 13 years this summer when they beat South Africa 2-1, but yesterday MacLaurin said: "Investment in the game is vital. At the moment, the turnover of cricket is about £60m, but we have identified the need to

invest £300m if we are going to improve facilities for spectators around the country and develop the kind of talent we need to sustain a winning England team."

MacLaurin added: "Cricket is still our national summer sport but it has taken a severe beating over the past few years. Our Test-series win over South Africa was the first hint of a revival which I believe will surge forward into the millennium."

Smith making waves after his tactical error

SAILING

BY STUART ALEXANDER
in Turkey

ON A hostile track and in testing winds the Melges 24 world championship began to settle into an Anglo-American confrontation here yesterday, though Italy's 1996 European champion, Giorgio Zucconi, would disagree.

After a breezy first day and stiff overnight winds, Torbay was in choppy mood for the second pair of races, which saw the present UK national champion, Rob Smith, fast out of the blocks in Henri Lloyd. But he could not control the chasing Americans - "I failed to listen to my tactician Freddie Blencke at the bottom of the first spinnaker run," he said afterwards - and was hunted down first by Brian Porter and then Vince Brun.

Eventually he was pushed to seventh but came back strongly in the second to make it four winners from four races. The easterly wind had eased from 15 to 10 knots, but the confused waves were still big. The bonus for Smith, apart from moving to fourth overall, was a clean start in clear wind and the choice of the favoured left-hand side of the course up the first leg.

With 93 boats on a line split in two, with two outer boats pivoting on the main committee boat, that start was crucial. "We were crowded out of the start of the second race and very cautious about being too early," said Porter, the new

overall leader. "But we made a tremendous recovery and, despite finishing 12th, know we could have been in the top five with a little more luck."

Brun has his own problems, with a badly sprained back, as he skips a British crew including 1996 Olympic silver medalist Ian Walker. Completing the 10 races will be a test in itself.

But Porter is going well, as is the third overall Scotsman Kevin Sprout, who had been joint leader with the now second-placed Zucconi at the end of the first day.

"The big waves meant big rewards if you picked up the rhythm and worked them hard downwind," Sprout said. "It feels like we've done a championship already. The beats are really hard work and one mistake is immediately punished by a handful of lost places."

MELGES 24 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Race 2: 1 B Porter (US); 2 V Brun (US); 3 V Sprout (GB); 4 T Wetherell; 5 R Smith (GB). Race 4: 1 Smith; 2 Wetherell; 3 Brun; 4 Ballesteros; 5 R Peacock; 6 C McLaughlin; 7 I Southworth; 8 D Scurry. Provisional overall after four races: 1 Porter (US) 32.7 pts; 2 G Zucconi (IT) 34.7; 3 K Sprout (GB) 49.7; 4 R Smith (GB) 61.

BRITISH AMERICAN CUP (Cousas, after four days): 1 Porter (US); 2 Brun (US); 3 V Sprout (GB); 4 T Wetherell; 5 R Smith (GB). Race 5: GB 10pts, US 26.25pts; Race 6: GB 11pts, US 23.25pts; Race 7: GB 12pts, US 24.25pts. Overall: 1 GB 83pts; 2 US 170.25pts.

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Wigan warn others off Gilmour with new deal

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

WIGAN HAVE taken action to ensure that Lee Gilmour, their discovery of the season, will be with them for at least another four years.

The 20-year-old second-row or centre had made only one substitute appearance before this year, but has been involved in every Super League match this season, also making his debut for England against Wales in July.

Already under contract until 2000, he has now agreed an extended deal that will keep him at the club until 2002. That should warn off clubs, like Bradford, who have shown a keen interest in his future plans.

By contrast, there are now two Wigan first-team regulars who will retire at the end of this season. Robbie McCormack,

named as the best hooker in the country this week, has rejected reduced terms for next season and will return to Australia after playing for the club in the play-off series.

He joins his fellow Australian, Mark Bell, in hoping to bring down the curtain on his playing career at the Super League Grand Final on 24 October.

John Monie, the Wigan coach, now plans to bring in another player, not necessarily a hooker, from Australia to take McCormack's place on the club's overseas quota. Meanwhile, Wigan remain hopeful of agreeing a new contract with Gary Connolly,

whose current deal expires in June.

The Australian Test prop, Mark Carroll, has played his last game for the London Broncos. Carroll has been banned for two matches for the altercation with St Helens' Brett Goldspink that triggered a mass brawl at The Stoop last Friday and so will miss London's final match at Castleford on Sunday.

Carroll is already committed to returning to Australia after just one season with the Broncos. He is to rejoin his first club, South Sydney, after failing to settle in England.

Goldspink, who joins Wigan next season, will also miss his current club's last Super League match, at home to the Sheffield Eagles tomorrow night. He has been suspended



Gilmour: Extended contract

for one match for striking an opponent during the flare-up at the Broncos, but will be available for Saints' play-off match against Bradford next weekend.

Leeds have announced a 10 per cent rise in their average home gate for the season. Leeds, assured of second place in the table going into the play-offs, have averaged 12,143, compared with 11,005 last year.

De Merode defends Griffith Joyner

ATHLETICS

OLYMPIC OFFICIALS singled out Florence Griffith Joyner for rigorous drug-testing during the 1996 Seoul Games because of rumours that she used steroids, the International Olympic Committee's senior anti-doping official said yesterday.

However, Prince Alexandre de Merode, the chairman of the IOC medical commission, said Griffith Joyner had passed all the tests and it was unfair to suggest she was a drug user.

Griffith Joyner, who won three gold medals in Seoul and still holds world records in the 100 and 200 metres, died on Monday in California at the age of 38. There have been allegations that Griffith Joyner used performance-enhancing drugs, plus speculation that her death was linked to the long-term effects of steroids.

De Merode said he had as-

signed his top drug expert to test Griffith Joyner after she won the 100 and 200m in Seoul. "Since there were rumours at the time, we performed all possible and imaginable analyses on her," De Merode told the Brussels newspaper *Le Soir*. "We never found anything."

Germany's Manfred Donike, considered the world's foremost anti-doping expert, failed to discover even minute traces of doping products, De Merode added. "Let her rest in peace," he said. "The issue is closed."

Sebastian Coe, Britain's double 1500m Olympic gold medalist, agreed that it was unfair to conclude that Griffith Joyner used drugs. "I set a world record that lasted 18 years," he said. "People do make progress at rates that raise eyebrows."

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"Nonetheless, we will seek to explore with our financial ad-

first place.

The Coral ruling has started a race for other bookmakers to join William Hill, Ladbrokes, Stanley and the Tote as forces in the industry.

- 1926: Joe Coral launches career as an on-course bookmaker
- 1943: Starts credit telephone betting office in London's West End
- 1961: Opens first high-street shop on legalisation of betting shops
- 1962: Owns just 23 of Britain's 3,340 betting shops
- 1971: Merges with Mark Lane chain brings Coral's estate to 589 shops
- 1974: Coral becomes public company and moves into hotels, casinos and bingo
- 1977: Four firms dominate off-course betting. Coral owns 24% of Britain's 3,254 betting shops
- 1981: Taken over by Bass (Joe Coral becomes life president)
- 1995: Buys Arthur Prince chain of 114 shops
- 1996: Joe Coral dies
- 1998: Ladbroke announces a £375.5m takeover but the deal is referred to the Monopolies & Mergers commission
- 1998 (September): The Trade Secretary, Peter Mandelson, blocks Ladbroke's acquisition of Coral bookmakers chain from Bass

GOING: Good to Firm (Fonstermeier leading 33)
STALLS: Straight course - stands side round 3 course - inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 230; 300, 330 & 435.
 * Right-hand course with sharp bends and gradients.
Course is N of Chichester between A285 and A283. Chichester station 4m. **ADMISS**
ISONS: Richmond Enclosure £17, Gordon Enclosure £36, Public Enclosure £2 (over-50s)
 £4. Accompanied under-17 for a free all enclosures. Cash PARK £2, or free.
LEADING TRAINERS: R. Hanson 36-383 (85%), P. Cole 33-524 (20.8%), J. Gooder
 27-47 (16.4%), J. Dunslop 27-828 (22.3%), H. Cecil 28-111 (23.6%), J. Belding 18-411 (22.9%)
LEADING JOCKEYS: T. Glynne 47-200 (22.3%), L. Dettori 43-808 (22.7%), J. Reid 40-288
 (22.7%), P. J. Felr 21-629 (22.7%), R. Hills 21-629 (22.7%), K. Fallon 19-300 (15%).
FAVOURITES: 240-720 (20%)
BLINKERS FIRST TIME: Nicky Spink 2300 - King Of Tunes 5000

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

FORM GUIDE

Dismond Drive: 2b, never racing since his success on AW. Well down here and in a softish race but even his trainer rates him inferior on turf.
Balmoral: Off the course since 8th win at Windsor in early-June. Won a nursery over this trip at Brighton.

Golden Palace: Disappointing when the chips are down (beaten by Puma of Gold at Bath last time). Tried over longer trip here but a tough race in which to break the ice.

Golden Palace: Latest win at Newcastle against a mile and hasn't been since an AW defeat in June (well beaten 4th to Linsteadle Favourite).

Sea Wolf: Well regarded 3y1 reunited with Kieren Fallon after the Ascot win over the trip (beet Fabrice). Creditable 8th to Golden Fortune at Salisbury last time.

Golden Palace: 10th in a 12-runner race at Bath last time. Not far off on the flat at Epsom over further in soft ground last time. Poor draw to overcome.

Carlinthis: Stayed on better to beat Broadway Melody at Salisbury but showed little improvement when met over the same trip at Bath last time.

Golden Palace: Well remembered black Spanish Fox, though draw seemed against her. Capable of better.

Kellymarch: Took advantage of good draw in Lingfield maiden last time. Ground was soft but he was well placed to win.

Golden Palace: 10th in a 12-runner race at Bath last time.

Rollin Spindles: Behind the BW Wish last time when test-of-12 to Golden Fortune at Salisbury. Earlier a fortunate winner at Brighton from Spindles in which, who was set too much to do.

Golden Palace: Late promise since the maiden win and in the race behind Claude Fables at Bath last time.

Palmetto Bay: With Michael Stoute least season and a doubtful runner today.

La Pasion Flamehair: At 11ms and 2 of flying still back after her latest soft-ground sprint to Moon Tanager at Lingfield

Beaver Hills: The 1000m Jack at Epsom last time but previously a 4th and 4th to Assent Manager at Sandown. Could figure from good draw

Morgan Le Fay: Short of form at Sandown last time in Hilt The Sports race. 2nd to 1000m at Sandown previously but looks beatable here

Converational: Has best draw to overcome and latest second to The Thruster at Lingfield seemingly not good enough for this

Young-It: Played prominent part in mile race won by Gillen Diamond at Kempton last time. Short of form but may still have a chance

Bay Of Delight: Best Buzz: The Agent over extended miles at Beverley and could figure today from the best draw after running from the worst draw last time at Beverley

Fast Friday: Best on the AW over 5f unlikely to have the staying ability after the latest poor run behind Inchingal at Windsor

VERDICT: Caranthine may do better here after being badly drawn at Newmarket when they took this trip and My Bold Boyo would have been the choice with a better draw now being back on best ground after this mud at Epsom. The draw, plus the bookies' odds, make this a very good bet. The 1000m draw, however, from Assent will not be MY WISH. The best outsider is Bay Of Delight, who will exit from the laconable inside stall.

\$3.00

**ESE-NY CLASSIFIED RACING STAKES (CLASS C) \$13,000 BODIES
1st Penalty Value \$8,273**

140033 AMBER POST (M) (C) (SF) Caladonian Racing D Eborach 5 5 5	N Pollard (S) 6 V
140036 NO EXTRAS (TGS) (C) (H) Henson G J Moore 8 5 5	R Brantford (T) 5 S
140434 CORNFLOWER FIELDS (T) (C) (S) Sidwell Surlif R Harrison 3 8 1	R Highgate 1
140435 CORNFLOWER FIELDS (T) (C) (S) Sidwell Surlif R Harrison 3 8 1	R Clontarf 2
140436 LITTLE INDIAN (P) (V) (W) Wrigley S Green 8 5 1	J Redmond 2
140437 LITTLE INDIAN (P) (V) (W) Wrigley S Green 8 5 1	J Redmond 2
140438 MORNAN (TS) (F) Parnell A Madhurst M Traynor 3 8 4	R Hills 3

- 6 declared -

SETTING: 6-4 Milnree, 7-2 Cornflower Field, 8-4 No Extras, 5-1 Amber Post, 7-1 King Of Tunes,
1-1 Little Indian.

Asheville Post: Not good enough in handicaps of late. 3rd to Easter Egg at Sandown last time, and falls well short on official figure today

No Extras: Loves the track and soft ground against him here last time (7th in Hammerslog). The may not be his day, however, with an aperticist aboard and conceding 10lb.

Cambridge Fields: Still improving and a good third to a decent start in Golden Fortune at Sedgebury (7th last time). Still task in this conditions race but sure to go well when the going is soft.

Chesham: Hasn't been in the best of form since his last start at Sandown. He has lost his sparkle (8th to Skywards here, last time). Chance to recover his form with the fitting of blinkers.

Little Indiant: Hardly getting but has tested to progress and tried in blinkers with no luck in two handicap two outings ago. Last of four to hit Chesham at Epsom last time but still has a chance getting the weight from older handicappers.

Milnburg: Talented juvenile who won easily at York on start from Low Academy and finished in 1st grade. Lost out unfairly by Hylton here on her reappearance.

[illegible]

Decomposed Here: Lester's winner. As good as ever when beating Diastol at a heat in Newcastle (7) in July and close to top form in two runs since. Ideally suited by the Mares. Ended her busy losing run when beating To The 14's (4) lengths at Warrmouth (7) in August. **Beating Diastol** (10) lengths at Newcastle (7) in August. **Beating Bold Peak**: Good effort at weights to beat J. M. 14's (length) at York (7). Going and the steel still set at upgrade but occasionally wayward. The one to beat in the early season. **Beating Bold Peak** (10) lengths at Newcastle (7) in August. **Beating Diastol**: Late handaway when beaten neck by Wolf at Chesham (7) in August.

Bereavement: Impressive when beating Ashcroft 4 lengths over 1 mile July, but disappointing 5 lengths at Newcastle (7) in Newbury (7) in August. Major run in the early season. First cutting between the 14's and 16's and looks lively to struggle on 25's. Lengths eighth of 11 to Soar 11 at Dealwrie (7) last month.

Narcissistic: Impressive early season winner from Kestrel at Longford (6) and Castle (6) in August at York. **Beating Bold Peak** (10) lengths at Newcastle (7) and close length against Bold Peak through Lowther, Kestrel, Slays 7 and should go close.

Wingings: Career-best after 29 runs. Lengths fifth of 14 to Ashcroft at 11 at Lusted (7) in August.

VERDICT: Henry Cecil has been handling indications that the best is probably yet to come, but the difficulties to score at York. Ideally drawn to suit by this easy 71 and is just prepared to the ice, who should find this test around more

added 2Y0 6r Penalty Value £3,873

1 22124 MILADENE (15) (F D Allison) B Mearns 8 2 _____ Pat Eddery
2 1 DEADLY NIGHTSHADE (44) (M Tabor) D Ewerton 8 18 _____ K Fallon
3 ELMHURST BOY (RE Anderson) S Dow 8 12 _____ J Field
4 33 ROYAL ORCHARD (1971) (FR) (M Mrs Gary Birchall) M Channon 8 12 _____ T Quinn

Majedane: Jerry will exposed from runner. Below bet an easy going with 4 lengths into Atlanta Destiny at Kempton following good effort at Windsor. Go close

Deadly Nightshade: Looked a useful prospect when quickening 2 1/2 lengths close exposed Price Of Passion on Bath 3rd. Highly regarded and sure to improve

Elmhurst Boy: Merdon Melody colt, brother to two winners up to 1m

Royal Oriental: Should not be far away on 3 lengths third to Red Devil and the smart Rhapsoad at Goodwood (8th) in May but sidelined since. Market the best guide

VERDICT: It will be something of a blow to David Elsworth if **DEADLY NIGHTSHADE** loses his first race, second in this company. The daughter of the very speedy Dead Certain is a very close cousin of the Bath and under the new rules the race set up for her by the book-running Majedane, who appears unlikely to produce any surprises after a fairly consistent performance.

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52-4	LOUIS PHILIPPE (USA) (112) (P D Sawl) J Gordon 9 0	J Field 7
0000	DALMING (116) (Hazardous Solid) Lucy Harris 8 8	Pet Eddy 2
	DREAM PURSUIT (Leadup Ship) H Cack 8 8	K Pelton 6
603002	MILES PAPA (FR) (116) (Mile Christine Planting) M Pigs 8 9	T Quinn 1
-22322	MISSILE CRISKEE (77) (GFF) (Lead Westley) J Fennimore 8 8	R Cochrane 4
34	HASABASER (USA) (117) (Goldchick) Seward Ish Surcor 6 9	L Detroit 3
30402	SILVER SUN (122) (J Harper) D Edwards 8 8	N Pollard (3) 5

Leuke Phillips: Covered Jewele from June when 14 lengths from 1 to 11ttm in very hot Yamahachi; 11m maiden in June but absent since. Place candidate. Disappointing: Little sign of ability so far. Will need to step up considerably on latest 36 lengths north of 10 to Spring Arrow at Lingfield (11m 3rd) to take hand of the 12m 1st. Good form again in 12m 1st at Lingfield in Italy. One to rise in the betting with stable newcomers; usually ready late last time.

Miles Pava: Confirmed debut promise when beaten short-head by Gleaming 11b at Leicester (11m 2nd). Form has worked out and she should be tremendous.

Theresa Crampton: Good form again in 12m 1st at Lingfield (11m 1st) 15 to La Trinité in Newbury (11m 2nd) 15 to 10. Good. Danger to beat stable on 10 to 11ttm.

Nassauway: The one to beat on seasonal debut 5 lengths third to Digizato and Bayezim at Newmarket (7f) in May. Failed to progress when 6 lengths fourth to Shwe at Kempton (11f) following more than doubled since.

Shwe: Will need to step up considerably on 10 to 11ttm at a Touch Of Frost at Salisbury (7f) and latest 6-length second to Edwinton over QHD QO to be a major factor.

VERDICT: Godolphin runners are frequently at their best following a lay-off and stress should not be a worry with NASSAUWAY, whose early-season Newmarket form behind Digizato entitles her to a major chance. She probably holds out more scope for improvement than Miles Pava and Miles Crowle. The Digizato line is represented by newcomers

If the money is not there for a wholesale takeover, an alter-

If, however, the Total emerges empty-handed, racing's long-term prospects will undoubtedly be damaged. Funders may enjoy extra competition tomorrow, but they, and the vast industry they support, may also pay the price in 10 years time.

Business, page 19

TIM WATTS, the chairman of Pertemps, who sponsor the St Leger, yesterday said his firm would continue its support of racing after losing his appeal against the disqualification of Muhtafel, a horse they had leased for the day, in the race following the St Leger at Doncaster on 12 September. And the Jockey Club, after delivering its ruling, reiterated its pledge to punish "win at all costs" race-riding with disqualification.

Fortune, whose suspension was ordered to stand, said: "It was a 50-50 case and that's the way it is. There is nothing else I can say."

John Maxse, Public Relations Officer at Portman Square, argued: "A 'win at all costs' style of race-riding is not acceptable, and we believe the most effective deterrent against jockeys endangering other riders and their mounts is the threat of demotion or disqualification. Both the Don-

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Blooming Spring
(Perth 3.40)
NB: Stolen Tear
(Pontefract 3.20)

caster stewards and the disciplinary committee were of the view that Jimmy Fortune created a gap where one had not existed, and as a result his riding offence fell into the category of 'major irresponsible'. The Jockey Club is aware of the interests of the betting public. However, the Jockey Club must balance the interests of the punter with those of the participants and their safety."

Marxse rejected Watts's allegations that the stewards had a political agenda. He said: "The disciplinary committee's findings support those of the Doncaster panel and proves that racecourse stewards judge each incident on its merits, regardless of those concerned."

THREE HORSES were yesterday supplemented for next Tuesday's Cheveley Park Stakes at Newmarket at a cost of £12,000 each.

Stakes at Goodwood. Completing the trio is the Maktoum Al Maktoum-owned Subeen who who impressed last time with a very smooth three-length success in a maiden event at Yarmouth.

PONTEFRAC T 3.50						
Horse	C	H	L	S	T	
Free Option	3-1	3-1	3-1	5-2	7-2	
Paradise Pond	4-1	9-2	4-1	9-2	7-2	
Dodging Edgely	11-2	5-1	6-1	6-1	9-2	
Alcoholick	11-2	6-1	5-1	6-1	6-1	
Monodrum	6-1	6-1	7-1	6-1	7-1	
Stomps	11-1	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1	
Refusen	2-1	12-1	12-1	9-1	11-1	
Diminutive	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1	14-1	
Vahia Wa	14-1	12-1	12-1	14-1	12-1	
Abouhail	14-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	
Papa Yoland	20-1	66-1	80-1	80-1	66-1	

Each-way with a fifth the odds, places 1, 2, 3

The Mick Channon-trained Golden Silca has improved with every race and has recorded five victories this season. A comfortable win in a Group Two race in Germany preceded her Mill Reef Stakes success.

Peter Chapple-Hyam has always thought a lot of Circle Of Gold and after being surprisingly beaten on her debut, she duly won two races including the Group Three Bunting

Mindless exploitation of the popular game

FROM THE extreme of Alan Harker's reactionary declaration 30 years ago that matches would not be televised live while he remained secretary of the Football League, to the bombardment we have come under.

This week the Professional Footballers' Association chief executive, Gordon Taylor, told a pay-per-view conference: "I'm in the business and even I'm saying: 'Oh, no, not another live game!'"

Taylor's concern is understandable. Sky's transmission of tonight's big encounter between Manchester United and Liverpool makes it 15 live matches in 11 days on satellite and terrestrial channels. Even allowing for Sky's limited audience, this mindless exploitation of foot-

ball's popularity should carry a health warning.

Imagine a time in the future when students of sporting history go back to see where the rot set in for a game that had risen above all others. If so, who was to blame?

The clubs, in their myopic failure to understand that greed brings its own retribution? Opportunists who saw football as a vehicle for personal prosperity? Administrators blind to the possibility of overkill?

Perhaps all three. Certainly football is on dangerous ground if it believes that there is no limit to what can be extracted from the public, both in ticket prices and television subscriptions.

I was mentioning this the other day to a friend of many years, an

Arsenal season-ticket holder who first watched them during the Second World War and still follows the game closely. What he does not do is switch on automatically whenever football is shown on television.

"Of course, if it's my club on the box I'm glued to the screen, but otherwise it takes the best teams to get my attention," he said. "I'm sure there are people so addicted to the game that they are suckers for everything that's shown, but I don't know any."

Another friend often works on his stamp collection while keeping an ear cocked to the television commentary. "I know that the exciting moments will be repeated in action replays, so I get on with what I'm doing," he said.



KEN JONES

There may be a lesson here for the clubs and their television paymasters. If people are coming to regard football on television as background entertainment, they

are unlikely to subscribe on a match-to-match basis.

The vibes I am getting correspond roughly to a decision taken personally when the Premier League took up with Rupert Murdoch. It was not only to be selective about televised football, but to ration the experience.

Later, when appearing on a BBC radio programme, I discovered that the Football Association's chief executive, Graham Kelly, had chosen a similar policy. Kelly may not remember this, but I have it on a recording.

You can come across football managers who admit privately that they only watch televised matches from which valuable information may be gleaned, or those that

promise to be exceptional. "There is too much football on television," the Football Association's director of coaching, Howard Wilkinson, said when in charge at Leeds United. A man of varied tastes, Wilkinson feared the effect of overkill.

Sky's transmission of last Sunday's match between Arsenal and Manchester United included the usual hyperbolic references to forthcoming attractions: a full week of football on Murdoch's channels. This made you wonder where the game is going, and what the future holds for it.

Anyone with half a grasp of simple economics is bound to feel that the Football League's proposed experiment with pay-per-view is asking too much of potential

subscribers. The average viewing figures for matches shown live by Sky Sports and the two main terrestrial channels are down further from last season. The recent Uefa Cup tie between Liverpool and Kosice reached only 2.2m viewers when put out by Channel 5.

What we have is a situation that caused Taylor to suggest that English football could find itself looking at a dead goose, instead of golden eggs.

"These are matches the viewer is getting free or on subscription," Taylor said. "What is going to happen when they are asked to pay?"

If football's negotiators have any sense, and sometimes you have to wonder, they should give that thought some serious attention.

England coach sues newspaper as FA dismisses claims it did not authorise CD interview deal as 'rubbish'

Hoddle's call-up for his lawyers

BY NICK HARRIS

GLENN HODDLE's lawyer said last night the England coach was suing a national newspaper for suggesting he had jeopardised the Football Association's commercial interests.

Peter Baines, of Pictors Solicitors, said it had been alleged that because Hoddle has endorsed a series of CDs containing interviews with England players - each CD is introduced by Hoddle and has a player in an England kit on the cover - the FA has lost out on commercial income. It has also been suggested, he added, that Hoddle's endorsement of the CDs would cause the FA "major commercial embarrassment".

"The FA have confirmed that they have been fully aware of Glenn Hoddle's involvement and that it has their blessing," Baines said in a statement. "The [newspaper article] is clearly calculated to discredit our client and to damage his reputation and we have been instructed to take legal action to obtain redress for our client."

Hoddle's decision to take legal action comes after several months of criticism about his behaviour while

HODDLE'S INCOME

England coaching job
£250,000 per year
World Cup Diary
£200,000
"Sun" Diary serialisation
£200,000
Mitre endorsement
£50,000
TV work
Up to £50,000 per year
CD endorsement
Fee plus royalties
All figures are estimates

in charge of the national side. He was particularly vilified for using the faith healer, Eileen Drewery, in his squad's preparations for France 98, and for profiting from the publication of his World Cup diary - complete with revelations about a number of current players. It appears Hoddle now believes there is a campaign among some sections of the media to oust him from his job and he has taken the action to halt an escalation in allegations about his conduct.

The FA moved to support Hoddle yesterday, dismissing claims that the CD endorsement had been unauthorised as "absolute rubbish". An FA spokesman, Steve Double, said: "We have been fully aware of Glenn's involvement in this and it doesn't conflict in any way with our commercial policies. It is only a problem



Glenn Hoddle, who yesterday started to fight back against allegations about his commercial activities, presents his World Cup Diary to the media at its launch in August

Peter Jay

for us if a player or coach endorses a product in conflict with us." Double added that all endorsements were scrutinised by the FA's commercial department to ensure that they did not conflict with other sponsorships - a player advertising a breakdown recovery company, for example, when Green Flag already sponsors the national side.

"Players and staff are free to endorse products as long as they are not in conflict," Double said. In the case of the CDs, he said: "We're effectively talking about an interview."

The CDs, which feature players such as Paul Ince and Teddy Sheringham, and make clear that they are "not official products of the Football Association", are essentially recorded magazine-style interviews.

The only accusation that might still be levelled against Hoddle is that he is profiteering from his position as England coach. His solicitor, however, said his client's business interests are not extensive and they are all legitimate. The England coach is a non-executive director of the Lytham & St Annes, the clinic run by his friend, Drewery, but he does not profit from it, according to

Baines. Hoddle is also a director of three other companies, but their sole function, said Baines, is to handle his commercial income. The Sanctuary Association, for example, is currently applying for charitable status and Baines added that Hoddle was entitled to earn money from other sources.

"When you are a public figure and commercial opportunities come your way, it's not surprising to take some of them," he said.

Dennis Roach, Hoddle's agent, denied that the England coach has abused his position for financial gain. "Between last December and the World Cup, Glenn Hoddle could

have made himself thousands but he knocked it back to concentrate on his job coaching the England football team," Roach said. He added that Hoddle had turned down offers of advertising work that may have netted him hundreds of thousands of pounds, including commercials - for Sainsbury's, a cola company, and a car manufacturer, among others - and had also turned down a lucrative television commercial for the sports equipment maker, Mitre.

Apart from his diary and its serialisation, however, Hoddle does have income from several sources. In addition to money from his book, he

makes money from the CD work, from a contract with Mitre to have his name on footballs and football boots, and from television punditry on ITV.

Hoddle is not alone in being an England manager who has profited while in charge of the national side. Bobby Robson and Terry Venables both wrote books while in charge, while Graham Taylor was reportedly paid a large fee to take part in the notorious documentary that trailed him through his time in the job. Robson's and Venables' books differed from Hoddle's, however, in that they were not controversial. Hoddle's mistake was to make his controversial

and then have it serialised in the Sun, earning him another six-figure sum.

It is not known how much Hoddle was paid for endorsing the CDs, and it is not known how well they will sell. A spokesman for the manufacturers, a subsidiary of a company called Going for a Song, said: "You'd struggle to find them anywhere at the moment." He added that a trial launch earlier this year, with the CDs priced at £4.99, would only be repeated, perhaps by Christmas, when distributors could be found. The new price will be £2.99. For Hoddle, the price of involvement has led him to sue.

Dicks defies the odds to make memorable return

JULIAN DICKS was told he would never play football again by some of the world's best doctors, but he was determined to prove them wrong. He did so in spectacular fashion in Tuesday night's Worthington Cup match when he signalled his return for West Ham against Northampton with a man-of-the-match performance at Upton Park. He also earned a familiar yellow card to truly underline his comeback.

"I always knew I would play again," said Dicks following his first appearance for 18 months. "People have got their own opinions but they should keep them to themselves because they don't know what I am like."

"The best surgeons in the world were telling me my career was over, but I was offered a chance to have pioneering surgery in the USA and went for it. I sat down with Harry Redknapp, Peter Storr and my agent Rachel Anderson about 15 months ago and we discussed whether or not my career was over."

BY TOMMY STANFORTH

"Then I went over to Alabama to see a surgeon called James Andrews. He said there was an operation I could have but it was a one-in-10 chance of succeeding and a 60-40 chance it would get worse. When I came round from the anaesthetic I was in absolute agony. That was my lowest moment, but once the pain went away I realised why I had done it. All I want to do is play football."

Dicks got a fantastic reception from the 25,000-strong crowd on Tuesday and wearing the captain's armband he was inspirational from the first whistle. The only disappointment was that although he helped the Hammers win 1-0 it was not enough to prevent them going out of the competition 2-1 on aggregate.

"Where football is concerned I don't need motivating," said the 30-year-old left-back. "It has been a long

time. I went out there and I knew I would get a good reception - although I didn't think it would be that good - and that is all I need. The adrenalin started flowing."

"After the first five minutes I was shattered. But the longer it went on the better I felt. Although we won 1-0 it was a bad night for the club. But for me it was a memorable night. It is just nice to be playing again."

Dicks' performance has almost guaranteed his place in the team against Southampton on Monday. "I shall have a couple of days off to let the knee settle down and hopefully I shall play on Monday. But there are a lot of great players here now and you have to really fight hard for your place in every game," he said.

Redknapp, the West Ham manager, is ready to pick him again and said: "After a performance like that it is difficult to leave him out of our next game. I shall have to find a place for him. I can't speak highly enough about what Julian has



Dicks: Risky knee operation

achieved. To come back and play again after the horrific surgery he has been through, and without having trained, he is a freak.

Fifteen months ago we sat in my office and he said he was finished, his knee was knackered. The operation was a last-ditch attempt, and even after it the doctors said he'd never play again. It shows how much character he has, and why he is one of the all-time great West Ham players."

Smith splashes out on Simonsen

STEVE SIMONSEN may have become Britain's most expensive goalkeeper yesterday - but he knows that his price tag alone will be no guarantee of a place in the Everton first team.

The England Under-21 international also became the country's most expensive teenager when he moved to Goodison Park for £3.3m from Tranmere Rovers yesterday, after months of negotiations.

Simonsen does not expect to go straight into the side for Saturday's home game with Blackburn. Thomas Myhre, the Howard Kendall purchase who took over from Neville Southall last season, is the man in possession of the No 1 jersey - and Simonsen is sure he will have to wait for his chance.

The Norwegian international Myhre, who cost £200,000 last November, has been put under intense pressure by the arrival of Simonsen as the Everton manager, Walter Smith, took his spending to

more than £15m since assuming the reins in the summer. Simonsen said: "Thomas has come in and done a good job. I've been watching him and he's been brilliant since he arrived to take over from Neville Southall last season. It will be good competition for me, and I know Thomas feels the same way about it."

"Obviously I'd love to be thrown in, but if Thomas keeps his form up there is nothing I can do. It will be a case of just chipping away and hoping I get the chance."

Simonsen spent time training alongside Myhre at Everton last season, and has also had special coaching from Southall at Tranmere. Now he has the chance to take over from them both. Simonsen added: "The fee doesn't bother me, you tend not to think about that. All I want to do is get down to my work."

Simonsen has made a swift rise to prominence, having played fewer than 40 League games for Tranmere.



Simonsen: Awaits his chance

He forced his way into John Aldridge's side last season and set a new club record of seven consecutive clean sheets. At 6ft 2in, he won a reputation for the ability to command his area.

Simonsen added: "It's been such a long time waiting for the move, particularly as I first heard about the rumours at the back end of last season. I always felt I'd like to move on, but I'm settled in the area now and I don't even have to move house."

09/21/2005

Coaches oppose super league

EUROPE'S LEADING national coaches said yesterday that a super league would act against the interests of international football.

At the end of a three-day Uefa conference, the top coaches called on both the European governing body and international governing body, Fifa, to protect national teams from what they said were purely commercial interests.

The introduction of private commercial leagues could spell the end of national teams and the public should be aware of the threat to the future of the game at international level, the coaches said in a statement.

The Milan-based media sales group Media Partners hopes to launch the new Super League featuring 36 European clubs in 2000. The competition, will generate \$2bn (£1.2bn) a year in revenue, it predicts.

Delegates from 50 Uefa member associations attending the conference said Uefa and Fifa should pave the way for greater cooperation between football clubs and the national sides.

The coaches also hit out at the controversial "Golden Goal" knock-out rule, saying it was an unsporting and incorrect way of deciding the outcome of a game.

The Uefa general secretary, Gerhard Aigner, said that the European body would take the coaches' points on board but was not considering dropping the rule.

Referees' interpretations of certain aspects of the laws of the game need to be unified and professional refereeing should be introduced, the coaches said.

They pressed for unified criteria on issues such as tackling from behind as well as concepts like "passive offside" (not interfering with play) to avoid confusion.

"If you are going to introduce a modification, then people should know a season in advance so leagues and coaches can get used to it," Andy Roxburgh, the Uefa technical director and former Scotland manager, told a news conference.

The coaches also called for a second round with group matches in World Cup finals instead of the current system where there is a knock-out phase after the first round.

The former French coach

FOOTBALL BY DERRICK WHYTE

Aimé Jacquet, who stepped down after steering France to their first World Cup triumph, was given a special award by the Uefa president, Lennart Johansson. The Croatia coach, Miroslav Blazevic, whose team secured third place in the World Cup finals in France, also received an award.

Barcelona issued a hands-off warning to clubs eyeing their 15-year-old Nigerian striker Haurana Babangida by slapping an 800 million pesetas (£3.3m), price tag on him on Wednesday.

Haurana, the younger brother of Ajax Amsterdam and Nigerian international striker Tijani Babangida, became the youngest person in Spanish league history to have a buy-out clause inserted into his contract.

The 15-year-old is currently playing for the Barcelona reserve team in the Spanish second division but, after impressing during pre-season, many observers expect him to be incorporated into the first team squad during the December "transfer window".

Ironically, the man whose place he could be taking is his compatriot, Emmanuel Amunike, who has a long term knee injury and is likely to miss the rest of the Spanish season.

Babangida, who celebrates his 16th birthday on October 1, has hit the headlines in Spain not just for his playing ability.

Last season he scored 37 goals in 21 games for Barcelona's youth side - which also led to some controversy.

Injured in one match, he was sent to hospital for X-rays which some critics said showed that bone scans had indicated he was at least three years older than the date claimed by the Catalan club.

Barcelona club doctors shrugged off the controversy by saying Babangida was "well developed for his age".

The Hungarian authorities said yesterday that they will introduce a compulsory identity card scheme for supporters from next season in a bid to curb a wave of hooliganism.

Attila Kovacs, the president of the Hungarian Football Federation, said that only fans with the card would be able to buy tickets or enter stadiums.



The Chicago Cubs' Sammy Sosa crashes into catcher Bobby Hughes during Tuesday night's game at Milwaukee. Sosa remained on 63 home runs

Yankees close in on all-time wins record

THE NEW YORK Yankees are just one win away from breaking a club record which has stood for 71 years after sweeping both games of a double-header with the Cleveland Indians, on Tuesday. They won their 108th and 109th matches of the season to stand within one victory of the 1927 Yankees record of 110 wins.

In the afternoon opener, rookie Shane Spencer belted two home runs and Tino Mar-

BASEBALL

tinex and his batting drought with a home run and four runs batted in as the Yankees outslugged Cleveland 10-4.

Spencer smacked solo homers off the Indians pitcher Dave Burba in the second and fourth innings. The Yankees manager, Joe Torre, said: "I just wanted to get him some at-bats and he's opened some eyes with the power he's shown."

Scott Brosius also slammed a pitch out of the park for the Yankees, who have now slugged 201 home runs this season, the second-highest total in the club's history. The Yankees blasted 240 home runs in 1961 when Roger Maris and Mickey Mantle combined for 115.

In the second game, Ricky Ledee drove in three runs as the Yankees won 5-1. New York now need to win three of their remaining five

games to eclipse the 1964 Indians' American League record of 111 victories.

The Yankees' Chili Davies said: "It's something that's reachable and with only five games left. Why not go for it? That will leave us on a very sweet note going into the playoffs."

At Anaheim, Rick Helling became the third 20-game winner in the major leagues as the Texas Rangers edged a two-game lead in the American

League West with a 9-1 rout of the Angels.

The Rangers went into the three-game showdown tied for first place with Anaheim and have come up with back-to-back 9-1 victories.

Helling (20 wins 7 losses) joined Tom Glavine of Atlanta and Roger Clemens of Toronto as baseball's 20-game winners.

In Seattle, Ken Griffey Jr hit his league-leading 54th and 55th home runs of the season

and put himself in some very lofty company by reaching 140 RBIs for the third consecutive season as the Mariners edged the Oakland Athletics 7-6.

Griffey smacked a solo blast in the third inning off Jay Witsick and sparked a three-run fifth inning with another solo shot. Griffey, who also scored the winning run in the sixth, joined Yankee legends Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig as the only players ever to compile 140 RBIs in three seasons running.

Festina rider sues over substance abuse claims

LAWYERS FOR the French cyclist Richard Virenque said yesterday that they plan to file a suit against Willy Voet, the former Festina physiotherapist who accused the rider of drug abuse.

"We are clearly going to file a complaint against him," Gilbert Collard, Virenque's lawyer, said on French television.

DRUGS IN SPORT

"Willy Voet is the accused who has become the accuser; the pyromaniac who the fireman went; the thief who cries robbery," he said.

Voet accused Virenque, one of France's top cyclists, of taking the same substances as

other members of the Festina team that was expelled from the Tour de France.

"How dare Richard say to me he doesn't take drugs," Voet said in an interview published on Tuesday by the newspaper *Le Parisien*. "He takes the same products as the other racers - no more, no less."

The Festina team was kicked out of this year's Tour de France after admitting to the systematic use of the banned substance erythropoietin. But Virenque has consistently denied using the drug and has urged authorities not to take disciplinary action against him. Voet said only three members

of the nine-man Festina team, Christophe Bassons, Patrice Halgand and Laurent Lefevre, had not taken the drugs.

He also accused Festina's team doctor, Eric Ryckaert, of administering the drug-taking, claiming that if he was not available the cyclists would inject themselves.

Voet is one of three Festina team officials currently under formal investigation after the Tour de France drug scandal. The others are Ryckaert and the team director, Bruno Roussel.

On Monday the French Cycling Federation prevented Festina from racing in October's world championships.

Holyfield overture to Lewis

BOXING

THE WORLD Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation heavyweight champion, Evander Holyfield, has said he wants to fight Lennox Lewis but has hedged his bets on a Mike Tyson rematch.

Holyfield's last defended his IBF title with an unconvincing points win over the unfancied Vaughn Bean. His next opponent is scheduled to be Henry Akinwande, while Lewis will line up against Croatia's Zeljko Mavrovic in Connecticut.

Holyfield said of Lewis, the World Boxing Council champion: "I'm looking forward to fighting him. He's a wanted man." The promoter Don King has also described Lewis as "wanted", and any deal could be worth \$13.5m to Holyfield for the chance to unify the major belts.

Tyson must undergo psychiatric tests before a Nevada Athletic Commission panel will consider ending the ban imposed upon him last year for biting Holyfield's ear in a title fight.

Holyfield, with two victories ready over the former champion, said he would fight Tyson again if he could regain a heavyweight title. "If he becomes a champion again, I guess I will have to," Holyfield said.

BADMINTON

The National Lottery is to award £1.3m to the Badminton Association of England for their World Class Performance Programme.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE New York Yankees 10 Cleveland 4 (first game); NY Yankees 5 Cleveland 1 (second game); Boston 11 Tampa Bay 2; Toronto 1 Baltimore 3; Detroit 14 Kansas City 4; Chicago White Sox 4 Minnesota 1; Texas 9 Anaheim 1; Seattle 7 Oakland 5.

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SPORTING DIGEST

EAST DIVISION

*Atlanta 88 70 557 14
NY Jets 73 84 465 28
Philadelphia 63 94 401 28
Washington 51 106 325 50
Florida 59 93 427

CENTRAL DIVISION

Chicago Cubs 88 70 557 14
St. Louis 73 84 465 28
Cincinnati 63 94 401 28
Milwaukee 51 106 325 50
Pittsburgh 59 93 427

WEST DIVISION

*San Diego 88 70 557 14
San Francisco 73 84 465 28
Los Angeles 63 94 401 28
Colorado 51 106 325 50
Arizona 59 93 427

BASKETBALL

SENIOR EUROPEAN LEAGUE FC Utrecht 62 NK Zadar (Croat) 55.

BOXING

PROFESSIONAL PROMOTION (New York): International Boxing Federation Lightweight championship 5 Mosley (US, holder) vs Eduardo Morales (ARG) 12 Rnds. Holyfield (USA) vs Vaughn Bean (USA) 12 Rnds. Holyfield (USA) vs Vaughn Bean (USA) 12 Rnds.

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FOOTBALL

Sao Paulo's Nelinho became the ninth coach to lose his job since the 1990s. He was sacked by Corinthians after a 7-2 defeat by Portuguesa.

Claus Nielsen, a defender with the Danish Superliga club Viborg, has been put up for sale after a training incident left his team-mate Claus Struck with two missing teeth and a broken jaw. Newspapers reported that Nielsen, who joined the club three weeks ago, punched Struck in the face. Nielsen said the incident was an accident during a tough fight for the ball.

TRANSFER FEES: Tottenham (7.30); Swindon v Bielefeld (7.30); Premier League: Peterborough v Arsenal (7.45); Sheffield v Walsley (7.45).

ICE HOCKEY

TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: European League: Manchester Storm 4 Herts Tigers 2; Brestford 6 Herts Cup Group C: Bedford 5 Edinburgh 2.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS Triple chance 24ppts £100.02; 25; 23 £60.10; 23 £32.30; 21 £55.00. Four draws £14.00. Odds: 22.5; 7.5. Five draws £23.10. Half-time (20ppts max): £68.40.

OTHER SPORTS

SOUTHERN HANDE: Horse of the Year Show (at Wembley Arena).

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OTHER SPORTS

FOOTBALL RESULTS

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

PONTIUS LEAGUE Premier Division: Leeds United 0 Leicester City 1. First Division: Luton 1 Tottenham 1. Third Division: Walsall 1 Hartlepool 1; Darlington 1 Chesterfield 2; Hull 0 Carlisle 2.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

WORTHINGTON CUP Second round: Birmingham 6 Macclesfield 0 (Birmingham 2 on aggregate); Bradford City 3 Huddersfield 1 (Bradford City 2 on aggregate); Cambridge United 1 Sheffield Wednesday 1 (Cambridge United 1 on aggregate); Charlton 1 Oxford United 1 (Oxford United 1 on aggregate); Chesterfield 2 Hull 0; Carlisle 2 Luton 1; Tottenham 1 Tottenham 1; Walsall 1 Hartlepool 1; Darlington 1 Chesterfield 2; Hull 0 Carlisle 2.

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Kournikova the princess of power

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Now flying to
 romantic
Paris

From
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Good things
 Daily scheduled